


Freshly Minted

An array of peppermint hues spread their cooling influence over the Spring/Summer runways. By Anna Loren

Resurrection, regeneration, renewal – with so many positive connotations, it's no wonder that green is a standout colour for spring. Spring/Summer 2012's must-have green is a continuation of the sorbet hues that have been dominating the runways in recent months: pale shades of peppermint adorn a variety of garments, from Yves Saint Laurent's demure separates to VPL's sporty underwear-as-outerwear creations.

The new season's peppermint hues are cool, fresh and appear in a range of intensities. From a barely-there minted cream at Balenciaga, to a honeydew melon tinge at Zac Posen, to a deep leaf green at Kenzo, these shades run the gamut from ethereal and dreamy to crisp

and strong. Juxtaposed with lacquered black, midnight blue or shades of mustard and red, summer's cool greens were used as the centerpiece of many collections, evoking a mood of new life and energy.

Peppermint has powerful effects on health and mood – one of nature's most useful medicinal herbs, the plant has been used for enhancing memory and soothing pain for at least ten thousand years. In feng shui, pale green is thought to represent tranquility, hope and positive growth, and to be effective for calming nerves and healing ailments. However you use it, uplifting, clarifying peppermint green is a colour to peg as a strong addition to summer dressing. 

RESENE GREEN ROOM

Resene Green Room is an oceanic green, full of youth and the fresh energy of ozone air, with goes well with deep blues like Resene Shipshape. Kenzo's new creative directors, ex-Opening Ceremony design team Humberto Leon and Carol Lim, juxtaposed Resene Green Room with rich oranges and blues in vibrant colour blocks.



Kenzo

RESENE LANDMARK

Resene Landmark is a summer inspired frolic of aqua, combining softness and depth. This turquoise hue goes well with pale creams like Resene Daydream – as seen at Chloé's Paris show, where it was shown alongside light neutrals on pleated, below-the-knee skirts and dresses and full, boyish trousers.



Chloé

RESENE HOWZAT

American designer Victoria Bartlett took the inspiration for her collection from plate tectonics, which was evident in the blocks of grass green laid over dark, swirling magma prints. Fiery reds and the soft browns and greys of volcanic soil were juxtaposed with Resene Howzat, an uplifting spearmint inspired green with hints of blue in it.



VPL



Balenciaga

RESENE KANDINSKY

Resene Kandinsky, a fresh apple mint green which is delicate and sweet in mood, was incorporated liberally into Balenciaga designer Nicolas Ghesquière's architectural collection. Blocks of peppermint, rust orange, mustard and muted metallics were divided by strong black lines, drawing attention to proportion and shape.



Zac Posen

RESENE MOTHER EARTH

Tibi's New York show featured an array of effortless eveningwear, incorporating jumpsuits, tailored shorts, and wide-legged pants in eye-catching silks. Resene Mother Earth, a mix of jade and parrot green, a clear statement of flamboyance, was used in swathes, as were shades of yellow, gold and blue.



Tibi



Marni

RESENE MOXIE

For Marni's Spring/Summer 2012 collection, designer Consuelo Castiglioni presented a plethora of ladylike frocks, anchored by an organza underskirt. Oversized floral prints and soft pinks and lemons created a mood of youthful innocence, as did the liberal use of Resene Moxie, a bright emerald and shamrock green, sporty and fresh.



Yves Saint Laurent

RESENE RESERVOIR

Precise, ladylike tailoring and a smorgasbord of jewel tones made a strong appearance in Yves Saint Laurent's Spring/Summer collection. Sapphire blue, violet and orchid appeared alongside Resene Reservoir, a pastel aqua green, refreshing, dewy and clear as light.

RESENE ZEAL

There were echoes of Old Hollywood in Zac Posen's Spring/Summer 2012 collection – shown in the recurring design elements of nipped-in waists, pencil skirts and flared hems. Elegant gowns dominated the range, in rich red, cool grey and Resene Zeal, a light turquoise blue-green, frivolous and full of fun.



1. Resene Green Room
2. Resene Howzat
3. Resene Kandinsky
4. Resene Landmark
5. Resene Mother Earth
6. Resene Moxie
7. Resene Reservoir
8. Resene Zeal