



Balmain

THE COLD SHOULDER

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This season, the shoulder is doubtlessly the 'erogenous zone' of fashion. Autumn/Winter 2016 womenswear shows suggest that the time and place to show off the shoulders is anytime, anywhere. Across the board, from **Dolce & Gabbana** to **Balmain** to **Valentino** and more, designers were influenced by the sensuality, flirtatiousness and femininity of the shoulders, offering a new take on the long-running free-spirited 70's trend, and ran the gamut of looks from day to night.

Marc Jacobs sent down gothic, voluminous ball gowns complete with Elizabethan collar necklines fit for a gothic princess heading to the ball. **Balenciaga**, on the other hand, offered an upscale office approach, with looks consisting of structured pleat skirts and conservative neutral-colored tops, though the shoulders still

managed to make an appearance. For the ethereal, light-hearted take, **Chanel** and **Alexander McQueen** emphasized the shoulders with delicate, tiered ruffle dresses.

Major retailers have already begun incorporating the trend, leaning more towards an informal take on a large range of Bardot-style tops, dresses and jumpsuits. Bohemian-inspired, off-the-shoulder and cut-out shoulder tops and dresses dominate, with a few styles having been allotted to fill the party/dressy need. However, styling is consistently casual; items such as denim palazzo pants and frilled maxi skirts complete the look for many of the shoulder-baring designs. With the trend having already profusely infiltrated retailers globally and proven to be a staple for A/W 2016, the cold shoulder looks to be heating up for seasons to come.