

WORDS | Jennifer Parkes

A CLEAR WINNER?

NOT ALL FASHION TRENDS ARE BUILT TO LAST – SOME ARE FUN FOR A MONTH OR TWO, AND SOME ARE JUST PLAIN WRONG (CROCS, ANYONE?), YET SOMETIMES THE CRAZIEST CREATIONS SOMEHOW MANAGE TO STICK. ONE SUCH IDEA ON THE RADAR OF FASHION FORECASTERS, AND SWEEPING ACROSS MULTIPLE CATWALKS AT FASHION WEEKS EARLIER THIS YEAR, WAS A SURPRISING PENCHANT FOR PERSPEX.

Simone Rocha, Philip Lim, Alexander McQueen and Christian Louboutin all showcased their take on the trend; while a plastic t-shirt is probably a stretch too far for most people (although undoubtedly useful for a rainy Spring), a few clear accents to shoes and accessories demonstrated how one of 2013's more contentious looks can be worn even by the more conservative dresser.

Perspex purses were the key piece for most designers adopting this trend. While a see-through satchel can look pretty cool housing nothing but a silk scarf, in reality, the practicalities of letting everyone on the street see the bits of your life that you carry around every day are few and far between. As well as potentially being a magnet for thieves, there are probably some daily essentials that you would rather not share with passers-by!

But even if Perspex isn't the obvious choice for the office, one of the best ways to make this spring/summer style work is for a day at the beach, look cool in the heat, and you won't need to worry about your bag being ruined by seawater. A clear clutch can look incredible paired with an outfit on a night out but, for peace of mind, make like Daisy Lowe and try a design lined with bright satin to keep your phone and cash under wraps.

Perspex-heeled shoes have been seen before, but both high-end and high-street designers have come up with some fresh offerings to keep your feet in fashion over the coming months. Feel like Cinderella with crystal clear straps and heels, contrasted against bright summery colours or classic black. For a more grown-up take on your childhood jelly shoes, try flat sandals with clear t-bar straps for style that is both clear and comfortable.



Simone Rocha, Spring Summer 2013

Chunky plastic jewellery can very easily look cheap, but those clever cats at Tatty Devine have this one nailed with designs such as their 'Posie' necklace (layered clusters of transparent daisies), which are far from tacky and work for both day and night. Price tags of around £300 are a tad excessive for what will likely be a flash in the fashion pan, so why not hit high street favourites such as H & M and Topshop for affordable but equally amazing pieces?

THE CHOICE IS CLEAR!



Charlotte Olympia 'Pandora' plexiglass box clutch



Urban Outfitters 'Astro' sunglasses



Topshop Perspex heels



Tatty Devine 'Posie' necklace



H&M necklace



Cambridge Satchel Company 'Gummy' satchel