

UNITED COLORS OF BENETTON FALL/WINTER 2006/2007

WOMEN'S COLLECTION

Glamorous is the adjective that best describes United Colors of Benetton's collections for the next autumn-winter season. Collections focused on fashion trends without going over the top. Well-established expertise helps to broaden the knitwear content. Restraint, good taste and an undisputed ability to choose and offer only what women really want: to be well dressed and very lovely.

Neo Noir for chic minimalists whose femininity shines through even under men's fabrics and outfits. Straight trousers, Bermudas with turn-ups above the knee, blazers (some with a faux fur collar), simple coats or others with the touch of a thin loose belt, figure-hugging leather bombers, rigorous wool or nylon mid-length jackets. And edgier styles: a short cape, a spencer-bolero with a stand-up collar and a pleated skirt which is also in a surprising puffball version. The knitwear's main features include large collars, neck openings with or without buttons, combinations of different yarns and wool weights, and black-and-white jacquard. In addition to the colour that gives its name to the range there is a sober brown, a classic charcoal and frivolous touches of white, pale blue and bluey-mauve.

Postcards from ... the dots are obligatory because the inspiring "where" is not well defined: the Los Angeles of Marlowe's trench coat; the icy north of textured knits; the Paris of light, almost summery little silk dresses; the English countryside of jodhpurs; the yacht clubs of the French Riviera or the Costa Smeralda of the "nautical" caban jackets; the upmarket ski resorts of the down-filled overwear and the knitted waistcoat that brushes the ground like a regal train. The palette is composed of milky-white, golden beige and dun with antique rose seasoned with a light hand and with soft, fleecy knitwear symbolised by the shrug.

Something poetic: the country style's romanticism and rough sweetness. Material combinations create the mood: tiny silk flowers married to tweed and herringbone; velvet with Shetland wool; tartan with heavy cotton; imitation leather and faux fur mix with striped knitwear. And that's not all. Even the classic styles mix together: the duffel coat has caban details; the bomber is built like a blazer; the men's coat is edged with dressing gown-like frills; the hunter's jacket is made of coated Prince of Wales check. All have the air of a style collector's classic must-haves given a new creative twist. Knitwear is everywhere with different stitches and yarns, mixtures of lines and modelling and incredible high points – to mention just one, the jacquard cardigan with "rounded" styling, a little bit shawl, a little bit redingote.

Bazaar Kashgar: of the Orient it has the jewel colours –teal, claret and pink-set amidst impenetrable, mysterious black; the silk and floral motifs; the discreet femininity of lace, trimmings, gatherings and sheer effects; the proportions and construction of dresses and blouses always with a high waist and tribal mood. Faux Karakul and textured wool for the main overwear. Lots of knits: layered, draped, low-cut, edged, matched with fanciful scarves.

The way we are is a "young" story of denim trousers, miniskirts, knee-length skirts, pedal pushers and Bermuda shorts wittily matched with important, elegant pieces. The very haute couture pastel hound's tooth short jacket with a "string" of woollen pearls; the Tyrolean-style boiled-wool spencer; the purple-hibiscus English duffel coat; the black trench coat of the serious New Yorker; the airman's down-filled bomber jacket; the rapper's fleece jacket lined with

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faux fur. Denim blue, black and lots of strong colour underline the brand's constant theme.

MEN'S COLLECTION

The men's collections for next winter are founded on studied sophistication, which naturally are seen in the more formal styles, but also, surprisingly, in the more casual ones too. The Benetton man dresses smartly, he expects the best materials and is careful about matching.

Remains of the day, for neo-preppy fans of formal dress. Appropriate colours – black, blue, charcoal and milky-white – for close-fitting full suits, short minimalist coats, classic trench coats just over mid-length, and sober caban jackets. Tone-on-tone striped or white cotton shirts with a formal plastron worn with 40s-style jacquard or plain-coloured mohair knits. Turtleneck sweaters make a comeback to replace the regulation shirt and tie. Lightweight wool, pinstripe flannel, tiny herringbone and soft moleskin are the main fabrics.

Town and country for British elegance. Woody colours with digressions into blues, greens and mauves. Classic country-gentleman fabrics, peach-skin velvets, wools blended with steel threads for carefully studied crumpled effects. Jackets sit loosely over shot velvet, denim or coated Prince of Wales check trousers. Overwear includes moleskin coats, padded cotton bomber jackets and cotton parkas with a quilted detachable liner. Classic knitwear: from chunky yarn to mottled cables, from diamond-pattern to optical jacquard, from stripes to multicolours, to wear with yarn-dyed or floral shirts.

Upside down refined casual for the *paninari* of the Eighties. A blue palette has touches of purples and schemes in browns or grey-greens. The look is full of padded jackets, sweatshirts and jeans, although there are also corduroy jackets with trompe l'oeil padding, peach-skin cotton and leather parkas, fleece jackets lined with faux fur. Coloured knitwear, jacquard or stripes, with jersey details.

Gangs of workers, or work clothes with a smart look. Street colours – petrol green, asphalt, mud – join forces with skilfully treated and faded denim. The beautifully detailed overwear includes nylon, denim, covercoat or moleskin short jackets and mid-length heavy tarred-corduroy jackets. The casually-styled trousers go from denim to heavy cotton with patch pockets, to be worn with yarn-dyed striped or vintage check shirts. Printed, virtually layered sweatshirts take over from knitwear.

ACCESSORIES COLLECTION

United Colors of Benetton's accessories collections for next winter not only create a total look when matched with the brand's apparel lines, but stand alone with their rich variety and fashion themes for new trends. A wide selection of accessories for men and women with absolutely everything that can be included in this very essential, multicoloured part of everyone's wardrobe.

Woman

The spotlight is definitely focused on the "logoed" ranges of bags. Made of different weights of nylon or rigid pvc with faux leather details, handles and fastenings. Available in basic colours as well as red and pastel pink versions. More plain-coloured nylon for the ranges of mainly handbags with studded, washed or punched faux leather to match the B.06 sneakers.

Other examples of combinations of different materials are the velvet or corduroy sporty bags with tone-on-tone leather or hide. For those who prefer pure leather there are three sizes of box bags in hammered leather – in black, brown, sage, orange-yellow or pale blue – and a range of shoulder or hand bags in specially-treated leather to create a vintage look.

The season's novelties are the suede pigskin bags with visible seams, and the "handmade" wool bags.

Winter feet require boots: of various leg heights and from sporty styles full of buckles, laces, strings and rubber soles to classic flat-heeled boots, British style. Elegant high-heeled leather boots – perhaps with the toe drenched in a darker colour to create a used look – or in coloured suede. Or floppy suede low boots with or without a metal toe. The shoe range centres around high-heeled two-tone loafers, pointy suede ballerina pumps in winter or pastel shades and, lastly, sandals, in line with a well-established trend: this season features a style from the 1940s, closed at the heel and with a crossover upper.

Heads are covered chiefly with caps, with or without a visor, or little boiled-wool berets in various colours. Belts are staid and classic, apart from a few happy, colourful variations with tribal-floral jacquard embroidery. Necks must have a scarf, and even if we are truly spoiled for choice the most creative versions are certainly the knitted ones. Brilliant colours and chunky wool, they feature unusual fringes and pompoms, and transform into endless flounces or 19th-century prim collars and just beg you even to wear them all together.

Man

The soft document case with a shoulder strap is today's version of the men's handbag. Square, fastened with press-studs, buckles and snaplinks. An updated version of the drawstring-fastened backpack is another practical style. Faux leather is the most widely used material, including a washed version that quickly acquires a vintage look. The nylon and rubber-coated PVC shoulder bags are enduring classics.

The shoe of the season is the black or brown hammered-leather B-On sneaker, an evolution of the more casual nylon and suede B-06 available in eight colours. B-On and B-06 have an unusual rubber sole. In addition to the two leading styles there are some lovely suede loafers with raw-edged seams, suede Peter Pan boots with an ultra-flat sole, and pointed black or brown leather low boots with a buckle at the ankle.

Heads display caps with visor made of various materials: patchworks of British fabrics, velvet or corduroy and, above all, lots of knitted caps – plain, striped, open-work or with cables or ribs.

The scarf is a must-have accessory for men too, adding a touch of colour and character to any outfit. Classic scarves of plain or striped combed wool, or very "now" versions in embossed silk, loosely-woven fabric, two-tone cable knits. The woman in his life may steal his scarf, but his tie is ultra-masculine and this winter will be made of knitted wool.

Belts are strictly leather –smooth, studded, edged, plaited, crocodile print, with zigzag stitching- with plain or logoed buckles.

The umbrellas, in a vast range of colours, and the nylon and PVC branded luggage are almost all unisex.

CHILD COLLECTION

A definitely bright and breezy collection for autumn winter 2006-2007 with a decidedly neo-global look. Every corner of the world comes closer, leaves hints and inspires, breaking down barriers and boundaries in a way that is perfectly in tune with children's attitudes. Colours play a major role throughout the ranges; chosen, used and matched with unparalleled skill and flair.

In addition to colour – an consistent leitmotif of the brand – there are other recurring features that define and identify the collection:

- jacquard knits, miniskirts and subtly embroidered padded garments for girls;
- polo shirts, shirts, jeans and patches on overwear for boys;
- brightly coloured satin B-06 sneakers on the feet of boys and girls.

Girls

Campus is the classic school look with permission to daydream: blazers in bright tartans; denim or check wool trousers are mixed but not matched with sweatshirts sparkling with rhinestones or stripy sweaters. The duffle coat is cherry red, the blue padded jacket opens out to pink. The British style's rigour is filtered through the coloured glass of a kaleidoscope.

Gipsy Style is a profusion of embroidery and flowers. Broderie anglaise settles gently on camouflage pants, on velvet blazers and flouncy skirts, on the fleece of short jackets and ponchos, on knitwear. And even on Lappish-style faux fur boots. Where there's no embroidery there are flowery prints that give fantastic gipsy colour to loose blouses, sweaters and faux sheepskin.

Candy girl, deliciously well-mannered in pastel shades. Coats, skirts and trousers are simple, almost severe, and balanced by the innocent, sweet creativity of little jumpers, sweatshirts and T-shirts embellished with embroidery, sequins and jacquard.

Tokyo is the range that looks forward, that breaks with tradition, that matches boldly, that plays with vibrant colours, that invents and customises. So jeans are worn under army-green mini dresses, fuchsia miniskirts with acid-green light padded jackets, jacquard ponchos with denim cargo pants, stripy sweatshirts with padded waistcoats, legwarmers with striped tights, army boots in brilliant colours and loop stitch scarves.

Angel girl indulges little girls' romantic side: dusty pinks and blues with just touches of army green or claret. Soft velvet; fluffy knits in lace or fantasy stitches; warm faux fur overwear. Tone-on-tone feminine mixtures highlighted with flower embroidery, golden sequins, frills, flounces, gathering and romantic details on accessories.

Boys

English style emphasises a subtle point of contact between classic and country. The first provides blue velvet blazers with embroidery on the back, jacquard diamond knitwear, yarn-dyed shirts and indigo jeans. The latter gives trousers in autumn colours, deconstructed moleskin jackets, wide-striped pullovers and tartan shirts. Between the two genres: sweatshirts and sweaters full of badges, prints, embroidery and appliqués.

Color street dips into the street look. Sporty styles and vintage hints. Lived-in materials and colours with lots of army green and camouflage patterns. Trousers are comfy and accessorised, overwear features sleek velvet bombers lined with fur, padded waistcoats and heavy sweatshirts. Yarn-dyed shirts and layered tops complete a look that's great for school.

High tech city, or trends on steroids. Hi-tech overwear in acid or cool colours. Denim trousers are highly detailed: fake patches and inlays, stitching and trims in all kinds of colours. Sweatshirts and T-shirts with funky cartoon prints are worn with contrast-colour shirts or fine-striped polo shirts.

Color sport is the world of stripes and powerful graphics, and it puts the accent on competition. The vital ingredients are basic colours –red, green, blue and yellow– together with a full range of denim.

Box mood or the call of the noble art. Boxing-related graphics on T-shirts, sweatshirts and polo shirts worn over comfortable, multiple-pocket trousers of heavy cotton or denim. The padded bomber jackets in brash colours and shiny fabric are worthy of a true boxer.

New Born

Lots of glamour and fashionable details in United Colors of Benetton's collection for newborns.

Layette is the range of classic articles: white and pinks for girls, white and pale blues for boys and a "neutral" milky-white and dark blue match to use on its own or mixed with the other colours. Each colour scheme has its own mascot: a seal, a husky dog and a reindeer, respectively.

Folk is strictly for girls. Lots of tiny flowers, flouncy skirts, lace-stitch knits, romantically soft wool cloth, fleece and wool in bright candy colours. Sport dresses boys in red, pale blue and dark blue, with touches of yellow and white. Script motifs, numbers and school badges. Caps, bomber jackets, zipped hooded pullovers and denim salopettes.

In keeping with their names, Happy Girl and Happy Boy feature cheery cartoon prints with kittens, rabbits and puppies. Pastel colours for her, but brighter ones for him. Sweet little pleated miniskirts are matched with romantic jacquard pullovers. He wears dynamic, multiple-pocket trousers with fine-striped wool jackets.

The Girl's version of the Mountain range is all soft pinks and blues, strawberry and beige. But the Boy's palette is worthy of a skilled rock-climber: grass green, moss, brown and beige. The feminine pink-and-beige striped wool duffle coat and the boy's down-padded technical jacket are the leading articles of the range. Edelweisses and snowflakes are the obvious decorative motifs together with fine felt appliqués, mixtures of wool and fleece and, of course, jacquard, which appears throughout the collection.