



Left: Anne Fontaine dresses up the basic white blouse with an eye-catching tie.
 Right: Designer Alexander McQueen takes it in the chin.

Chin Up

Fall's best blouses leave a lasting impression.

BY LORRAINE SANDERS.

Looking for a statement piece this season? In the most fashion-forward wardrobes, the blouses are doing the talking. From Milly's demure ruffles and cute collars (Bloomingdale's, 845 Market St., 415.856.5720) to Alexander McQueen's black tie-worthy bow ties (Saks Fifth Avenue, 384 Post St., 415.986.4300) and Anne Fontaine's chin-grazing take on the classic white shirt (118 Grant Ave., 415.677.0911), eye-catching necklines are in the spotlight. For the style-conscious, the perfect statement blouse has the ability to bring high-drama, but is surprisingly low-maintenance and works best when worn with minimal accessories, says personal stylist Teresa Kuhl. "Statement blouses are great pieces to add to your fall wardrobe. You throw on your blouse with slacks or a skirt, and you've got an outfit." As a general rule of thumb, recommends Kuhl, "You want the blouse itself to be the statement." That means a simple, classic pair of diamond or pearl studs is often all that's needed to complete the look. What's more, Kuhl adds, "These blouses are excellent with this season's other trend: high-waisted skirts and pants. A statement blouse on top really adds interest at the outset." ■

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