



Basic instinct

Marni's new capsule collection combines easy-to-wear pieces with the label's quirky trademarks. By Grace Timothy

I wanted to form a 'personal' wardrobe of those favourite items that make you feel at ease, and get better with each wash," says Consuelo Castiglioni, the doyenne of Marni, unveiling her new brainchild: an easy-wear, easy-wash capsule collection. "This concept went closely with the idea of effortless clothing – relaxed and completely timeless." Launching in-store in February, the new line, Summer Edition, draws upon archive favourites reset in zesty colours and eye-popping prints, sure to attract a new generation. "It is aimed at everybody," she explains, "Marni's old friends completing

their existing wardrobe, and newcomers who will discover the facets of Marni."

The capsule has as much vivacity and skilful deconstruction as the ready-to-wear collections, all in permutations of cotton. For the beach, cruise stripes on T-shirt dresses and simple kaftans are accessorised with capacious balloon bags and a sunhat. From sandy cove to city, a roomy all-in-one is a great version of this season's big trend, while A-line maxi-skirts waft along in whimsy. And from weekend to work, tailored shirts, jackets and trousers complete the capsule. It is a wardrobe that goes beyond the basic, with idiosyncratic details

Marni devotees will recognise: beautiful pin-tuck folds at a sleeve, softly gathered pleats on a sundress, and chunky resin-disc necklaces.

And, of course, there is print, the cornerstone of Marni – graphic black lines over bold strokes of bright yellow collide with oversized Pointilliste swirls in tones of putty and blue. There is something of a Sixties tribal design in the look, as Castiglioni goes back to her roots with vintage-inspired prints. Among the collection's satchels and shoulder bags, Castiglioni's favourite boasts a splashy print on canvas, designed by Sonic Youth's Kim Gordon. "Art has always had a strong influence on my work," she says. "I bought one of Kim's watercolour paintings, and when I received another selection of her work, it came to my mind that I could use her paintings." These feature on T-shirts, too – another highlight, through which the 14-year-old house is reinvigorating its image. But the spirit remains the same: arty, offbeat beauty. Look out for the winter edition next season. ■