DREAM JOB

For its fall/winter 2013 showing of haute couture this past summer, Chanel constructed a theater in what appeared to be a post-apocalyptic ruin inside Paris's Grand Palais, where creative director Karl Lagerfeld is known to present larger-than-life sets each season. A caved-in wall onstage revealed a backdrop of what resembled a megacity of the future—an apt setting for a collection that Lagerfeld calls "a transition from the old world to the new world." In one look, strips of geometric vinyl in black and white add a textural touch to a long-sleeved fine-tulle dress; in another, miniskirts covered in square tiles resemble window-clad skyscrapers. This season, the famed couture pleat atelier Gérard Lognon-a longtime Chanel collaborator—introduces new techniques and materials: In addition to pleating blouses in flowing silk, Lognon origami-folded organza, leather, and crèpe de chine, adding a 3-D effect to jackets, skirts, and gowns. This redefinition of embroidery techniques suggests that Chanel's couture continues to evolve, while keeping the brand's signature tweeds, black-and-whites, and sculptured suiting intact. —Justin Min



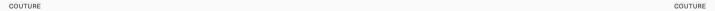






COUTURE







From left: Belted dress in black tulle embroidered with square-pattern upright vinyl strips, worn with matching bolero.

Belted tunic in black tulle embroidered with thin strips of gray organza, worn over a long transparent skirt in silk tulle.

COUTURE



COUTURE COUTURE





Boat-neck collar coat in black leather satin embroidered with multicolored origami. Makeup: Aude Gil at Studio 57 and Kazue Deki at Callisté.
Producer: Chloé Nataf at Total Management. Photo assistants: Ugo Vannier and Audrey Danguy. Retouching: Hatim El Hihi at Maison de Correction.
Models: Lisskulla at Tara, Gwenola at Just WM, and Tiffany at Just WM. Location: USM showroom, Paris. Special thanks: Pascal Buisson.