# Fashion Design and the Glamorous Of Polka Dot 

Assist. Prof. Dr/ Nashwa El Shafei

Ready-made Garment Technology and fashion design Dpt.- Faculty of Applied ArtsDamietta University-Egypt


#### Abstract

motasem.srhan@gmail.com Abstract Fashion design is the art of the application of design and aesthetics or natural beauty to clothing and accessories. The old myth has told that a young Salmon finds a Polka Dot dress floating in the Connecticut River. The young Salmon dressed it and becomes excited about all the Trash in the River where she found a sofa floating and hops onto it. On the other hand young Salmon dreamed about becoming Human.

Polka Dot pattern are somewhat a signature of the fashion designers houses. Polka Dot is a pattern consisting of an array of circles with same size of different. Heart motifs are the most common used concept for the valentines theme displays heart structures which have been highlighted with lighting. The most obvious is that when taking inspiration from similar mediums, there's a fine line between "inspired by" and "copied". Designers themselves are very involved in choosing what appears for their searches in order to promote their presentations and shopping locations. The designers came from different centuries; different countries and many different walks of life, but they all had one thing in common: the nature is the beloved and respect in all of its wonder and significance. Nature is therefore the garden planets and the sea creatures have been a good source of inspiration. However the term "Polka Dot" had been embedded and established in our minds and has been a part of our fashion vocabulary.


The Polka Dots trend has been an integral part in the fashion industry. Most of the fashion during this era showed sleek silhouettes, emphasis on the waistline and a woman's curves. The dots were usually dainty or small in size and would be found in black, navy blue, or red articles of clothing as it's at sea fish or Begonia plant leaves.
The present research is focusing on Polka Dots history, Polka Dots pattern, and its glamorous fashion designs as well as some designs inspired by that motive.

Key words: Polka Dots, Begonia plant leaves, glamorous fashion designs
الملخص:
تصميم الأزياء هو فن تطبيق النصميم وعلم الجمال أو الجمال الطبيعي على الملابس والاكسسوارات. وقد أخبرت
 لكل المهملات في النهر حيث وجدت صوفا تطفو وتقفز عليها. من ناحية أخرى يحلم سالمون الثباب عن أن يصبح

نمط Polka Dot هو نوعًا ما من توقيع منازل مصممي الأزياء Polka Dot هو نمط يتكون من مجموعة من الدوائر ذات أحجام مختلفة. تشكل الزخارف القلب المفهوم الأكثر استخدامًا لموضوع الأحبة يعرض هياكل القلب التي تم إبرازها بالإضاءة. والأكثر وضوحًا هو أنه عند اتخاذ الإلهام من وسائط مشابهة ، هناك خط رفيع بين "مستوحاة من" و "نسخ". يشارك الصصمون أنفسهم بشكل كبير في اختيار ما يبدو لعمليات البحث الخاصة بهم من أجل ترويج العروض التقنديمية ومو اقع التنوق الخاصة بهم. جاء المصممون من قرون مختلفة ؛ بلان مختلفة والعديد من مناحي الحياة المختلفة ، ولكنهم جميعا لديهم شيء واحد مشترك: الطبيعة هي الحبيب والاحترام في كل من عجبه وأهميتّ. لذا فإن الطبيعة هي كو اكب الحدائق وكانت المخلوقات البحرية مصدرًا جيدًا للإلهام. ومع ذلك ، فإن مصطلح "Polka Dot" قد تم تضمينه وتأسيسه في أذهاننا وكان جزءًا من مفردات الموضة لداينا.
كان اتجاه Polka Dots جزءًا لا يتجزأ من صناعة الأزياء. وأظهرت معظم الأزياء خلال هذه الحقبة صورة ظلية أنيقة ، والتأكيد على محيط الخصر ومنحنيات المرأة. كانت النقاط عادةً ما نكون صغيرة أو صغيرة الحجم ويمكن العثور عليها بمو اد سوداء أو زرقاء داكنة أو حمراء اللون كما هي في أسماك البحر أو أوراق نبات البغونيا. يركز البحث الحالي على تاريخ Polka Dots ، ونمط Polka Dots ، وتصميمات الأزياء البراقة ، بالإضـافة إلى بعض التصاميم المستوحاة من هذا الاافع.

## Introduction

The first insights on the symbiosis of art and business [1] leave the impression that it is the combination of very activities of different fields, types and purpose that complement each other in unpredictable ways. As both arts and business are multi-factored conceptions; therefore, it is necessary to focus on various aspects, related to the simultaneous development of each, as well as the impact of their cooperation. Polka Dots, for instance [2,3], were symbols of supernatural potency and moral uncleanliness before they adorned itsy-bitsy bikinis and sundresses.

The Polka Dots are more than average circles. First, they are irregularly shaped, and not the perfect circles of a standard Polka Dot. They are 'shaded,' that is a crescent of white around half of the perimeter of each of the dots which is different from the standard uniformly colored Polka Dot, and they consist of several different colors. Thus, the shape and the shading of the dots are sufficiently original. Eventually brings us back to our current perceptions of patterns, but not without leading us on a captivating journey across cultures, time periods, and contexts.

The development of the creative aspect of a fashion designer is an important issue [4,5] on which it builds the personality of the fashion designer, which must be singular and unique. The ability to innovate in the production or formation of new ideas is one of the most important factors that stimulate design quality.


Fresh water Polka Dot
Fig (1).


There are so many things designers could be turning for inspiration outside of design galleries. Although Taking inspiration from both modern and ancient fashion time could be an easy way to design something different, but it's absolutely that the nature is mother of inspiration. It's clear from the photographs as shown at fig (1-4).that Polka Dot is created by the creator to be enjoyable by us.

## With any Dictionary the definitions for Polka Dot is that:

1. One of a pattern of small circular regularly spaced spots on a fabric.
2. A fabric or pattern with such spots.
3. Adot or round spot (printed, woven, orembroidered) repeated to form a pattern on a textile fabric.

## History of Polka Dot

The Origins of Polka Dot Term.
The term "Polka Dot" derives loosely from the Bohemian folk dance of the same name "Polka", in the Czech language, means "Polish woman" or "little woman"-tradition where the dance was named when some Bohemian travellers came upon a young Polish girl performing the dance.
Fashionable society was again, and more prominently, introduced to the Polka Dot in 1926, when Miss America, Norma Smallwood, was photographed in a Polka Dot swimsuit. Just
two years later in 1928, Disney introduced its cartoon leading lady Minnie Mouse wearing a red Polka Dot dress and matching bow.

Throughout the 1930s it was obvious that the Polka Dot had become a revolution in women's fashion. Polka Dot dresses appeared in stores with ribbons and bows. Then in 1940, Frank Sinatra gave a refreshed wind to the pattern with his ballad "Polka Dots and Moonbeams" which captured the height of America's Polka Dot mania Fig (5)..


Fig (5).


Fig (6).

In the 1930s and 40s Polka Dot was everywhere. it was also a popular motif for kitchenware and other household items. It wasn't until the 1950s, though, that Polka Dot dresses really hit their highest point of popularity. In the late 1940s through the 1950s, Christian Dior's sophisticated "New Look" dominated fashion. In 1954, Dior's couture collection featured an elegant, structured black dress with white dots, and a star was born. Christian Dior, Porto Rico dress - 1954 - Haute Couture - Model: Dior house model Victoire - Paris - Photo by Mark Shaw as shown at fig (6).

The Polka Dot remained a staple of ladylike dresses through the 1950s, went mod in the 60s when Twiggy wore drop-waist scooter dress, then again appeared in psychedelic and bohemian fashion of the 70s. It was standard-issue office wear in the 1980s, and embodied the rockabilly retro trend of the 1990s.

## The Beginning of Polka Dots Mania.

Centuries ago Polka Dots were a symbol of the plague until the 19th-century craze for the polka dance changed that conception permanently for the better. Polka Dots however first appeared in the context of fashion in 1840s. They were especially visible in bow ties and kerchiefs [6]. Frankly speaking it was the gypsies bringing their moon-shaped mirror embroidery to the flamenco dancers that started .Contradictly most fashion historians agree
that the Polka Dot was born in mid to late 19th century in England, where dandies like Beau Brummel, who started a trend for dotted scarves and bow ties [7].
In the mid-1800s, the United States fostered the polka craze, considering forming polka clubs with formal uniforms for the club dancers. Some historians believe these uniforms, may have inspired the term. Polka Dots as a fabric pattern didn't exist until the mid-19th century.
However, the Oxford English Dictionary reported that the dance's popularity caused the name to be affixed to all sorts of products, such as - polka-gauze, polka-hat, and polka-dot, even polka
ham!

## Polka Dots All Around.

Polka Dots are most commonly seen on children's clothing, toys, and furniture, but they appear in a wide array of circumstances. The word "polka" was such a trendy word that they used it for a variety of random things like polka hats and polka windows.
It could be said that the Polka Dots trend has been an integral part in the fashion industry. Most of the fashion during this era showed sleek silhouettes, emphasis on the waistline and a woman's curves. The dots were usually dainty or small in size and would be found in different articles of clothing fig $(7,8)$.


Swimwear and Polka Dots [2] have a history dating back to the 1800s when women wore swimsuits that looked more like short dresses and covered their legs with stockings and their head with a cap at the beach. Although it's unknown when Polka Dots first appeared, but the technology was existed to make printed fabric in Europe for hundreds of years. During the 1800s, Polka Dots appeared on some everyday clothing, such as the blouse and dresses.

However an early picture of Polka Dot clothing appeared at 1865 as shown at Fig (9) as Giltframed tintype portrait of a woman in a polka-dot blouse and apron over a striped skirt circa. Especially and eventually with continuing to exert a strong fashion influence throughout the 1900s, the trend to use Polka Dot fabric in fashion design strengthened during the 1920s. At 1926 Miss America Norma Smallwood, wore a Polka Dot swimsuit. The idea of Miss America originated with bathing beauty contests in Atlantic City, New Jersey as Fig (10).


Figure (9)


Fig (10)


Figure (11)

At 1935, at fig (11), Alice Faye the singer and actress wore a Polka Dot blouse in movie studio portrait as contributing to the fresh and girly appearance by the black Polka Dots on white background. Eventually, Black or navy Polka Dots on a white background have come to be associated with spring and summer fashion.

## White on Black Polka Dots

White Polka Dots on a black background [9] have a sophisticated and sleek feel.
Polka Dotted dress is ideal for a night while you'll be best dressed for afternoon dress. Fashion house " Dior" 1947-1957 Christian Dior 1951 Dress «Mirza», a collection of haute couture spring-summer As shown at fig(12).In 1950s-spring dress and hat fig(13). Wished people still dressed. At Vogue 1957 magazine the model Estevez was wearing Polka Dot mermaid gown as shown at fig (14). Inspirational Vintage Fashion Original Dior. 1954.as shown at fig(15)


Fig(12)


Fig (13)


Fig (14)


Fig (15)

Fig(16) is showing the Diana Princess of Wales was opening the Hospital Sports Center 1990 .also with her classic style would still work - as whit in black Polka Dot as a pictures of the style icon whilst Fig(17)Fashion icon and movie star Sophia Lauren in white on black polka dots spotted celebrities


Fig (16)


Fig (17)

## Black on White Polka Dots

Many consider Paris the height of fashion [10], and Paris Fashion Week as the height of fashion month. Paris designers showed their stuff this season with fantastic fabrics fashion into fabulous garments. Black Polka Dots on a white background always attractive. Eyes naturally flick to the Bright color. Creating just a quick flash of Polka Dots, while balancing allows the Polka Dots to take center stage as shown at fig (18).


Fig (18)


Fig (19)


Fig (20)

Fig (18) movie star Amy Adams in black on white Polka Dots
Fig (19) Stylish stars like Emma Stone and Alexa Chung are going dotty over the playful print this season.
Fig (20) movie star Dita Von Tease in polka-dot perfection

## Sheer Polka Dots

Layered over skin or fabric, sheer Polka Dots could minimise the imagination[ 11]. Monique Lhuillier's sheer shoulders give just a glimpse of skin, while Francesco Scognamiglio and Isa Arfen throw modesty out the window. Markus Lupfer's dress is perfect for a day at the office or a night drinking cocktails, while J. Crew imaginatively layers sheer Polka Dots over a white blouse for a lovely contrast. Fig(20) too.The outfit was by the fashion designer Elie Saab and we can certainly take some inspiration from it. What's not to love about the chic ensemble with statement Polka Dot print?


Fig (21)


Fig (22)


Fig (23)

Fig (21) Jennifer Lawrence the Oscar-winning actress stepped in a sheer Polka Dot gown from Dior Couture's spring 2017 collection.
Fig (22) Olivia Culpo the former Miss Universe winner wore attractive, 2017 in Gala NYC fashion show.

Fig (23) Nina Dobrev gets attractive spot on in a sheer Polka Dot lingerie-revealing top at the annual Power Stylists Dinner.

## Mixed Patterns

Designers have been mixing [11] and matching patterns of Polka Dots that neither mix, nor match. Andreas Kronthaler for Vivienne Westwood and Marques Almeida simply match different size black and white Polka Dots as shown in fig (24). Natasha Zinko plays with colors with a Polka Dot dress and fur coat as shown in fig (25).
Novis plays with Polka Dots and floral as shown in fig (26).


Polka Dots have been as inspiration motive all times [12], where it dominated head at Paris Fashion Week. Zimmermann pairs polka with plaid as shown at fig (27). Marques-Almeida-Fall-2017-Ready-to-Wearis using big black dots with plain black fabrics as shown in fig (28). At fig (29) where Christian Dior and Ralph \& Russo went for sheer fabrics with opaque dots.


Fig(27)


Fig(28)


Fig(29).



## Ladies fashion and Polka Dot.

Polka Dot designs have been part of the cloth business for over 200 years now. It is said that no apart from, Beau Brummell [14] himself wore Polka Dots in his dress. Beau Brummell is considered to be the arbiter of men's style in regency England. Many people even call him the inventor of the contemporary suit for males, and his early influence on men's style continues to be evident today. Throughout the same time period that Polka Dots were launched in clothing, Polish Polka music became well known, and although there is no real link between Polka Dots and Polka music, the design got the name from there. Because of Polka Dots made a very popular fashion statement therefore, at 1950 typically the movie stares of this era would have some Polka Dot dress and blouses during the 1950s.

## Elizabeth Taylor

Elizabeth Taylor Fig (30) Actress by photographer Sanford Roth (1954)[15]. Featuring a Polka Dot yoke. Elizabeth Taylor struck a glamorous pose in a blouse with a Polka Dot yoke, the same year she appeared in the award-winning movie National Velvet. Although the Polka Dots, ruffles, and tie at the high-necked blouse all suggest her youth .The dress is entirely underlined with white cotton while the skirt lining has a ruffle hem and attached netting for fullness. Hi-neckline in front to a V-neck back.

## Marilyn Monroe

In 1951 iconic attractive symbol Marilyn Monroe posed in a Polka Dot bikini fig (31), Marilyn Monroe's relatively conservative swimsuit preceded the popular song "Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini" by nine years, as well known it's less revealing than the celebrated bikini of the song, which made it to on the billboard charts in 1960. The Polka Dot pattern seems to have captured a carefree spirit of playfulness, reflected in beach garments .However, the girl who was wearing the "itsy bitsy" bikini was "afraid to come out of the water as shown on its advertising fig(32)." At 1960s Polka Dot bikini featured large Polka Dots. The two-piece swimsuit offers far more coverage than today's brief bikinis where many of which customers are hesitant to wear.
Throughout the years of the late 1800s and 1900s, Polka Dots frequently appeared on swimwear where yellow Polka Dot bikini" made famous by the Brian Hyland song.


Figure (30)


Figure (31)


Figure (32)

## Lucille Ball

## Lucille Ball

the TV stare Figure (33). She starred in the zany and long-running TV comedy series ''I Love Lucy ''in which she played housewife. Lucille Ball, top comedienne of the 1950s, wore a Polka Dot blouse in a publicity photo for the 1954 movie.

On the other hand, in 1970 London policewomen posed for a publicity photo wearing their new uniforms with Polka Dot blouses. The blouses with the playful Polka Dots pattern seem to be an odd touch to uniforms as shown at fig (34).


## Diana Spencer

The late princesses Diana Spencer [14] was probably the most photographed, examined and inspected closely, followed by admired, lovers, judged and hounded lady of the decade. Although her short blonde curls and designer gowns were typical of her style in the 90s, but in the 1980s, when she was still a new princess, she was calm, cool and gentle eye make-up and suits that has us all attractions. In 1988 Diana, Princess of Wales, where her favorite color was red. Naturally combination would be between a red and white color will be chosen to wear a red and white Polka Dot dress as well as sky blue for a public appearance. It was well known as a style leader, as shown at fig (35).


Fig (35)
Jude Stewart [16], author of ROY G. BIV: An Exceedingly Surprising Book about Color brings her same sprightly sense of humor, sparkling personality, and roving curiosity to this cultural history of patterns. From camouflage to undisguised, plaid to paisley, slipping out of the ' scandalously striped mantle and into an itsy-bitsy-teeny-weeny yellow polka-dot bikini. It was mention that the Polka Dot hasn't been fashion's premiere pattern in age .While the simple spots are typically associated with wholesome fare such as itsy bitsy bikinis and Minnie Mouse skirts, where Henry Holland the directional designers, the polka de résistance came from House of Holland, where oversized dots were paired with pretty floral, sheer fabrics, and acid bright for a Beverly Hills inspired collection the print is reenergised and feeling fresh again.

## Julia Roberts

It was mostly grunge and muted neutral colours but that didn't stop the Polka Dot trend from happening. An iconic moment during this era was Julia Roberts [17] wearing a long brown sleeveless Polka Dot dress in "Pretty Woman". This was one of the movies that put her on the map to success as well as wearing white on black Polka dots dress as shown at fig (36)


Julia Roberts fig (36)

## Polka Dot Modern and contemporary fashion designers

Although Polka Dots were originally adorned by flamenco dancers, but became popular in the United States in the late 1920's. Seen on everything from itsy bitsy Polka Dot bikinis to Carolina Herrera designs, Polka Dots have made their way back into popularity, scattered throughout the runway.

Nowadays it could be seen a variety from ultra-feminine to grunge chic Polka Dots that can work for any kind of girl. At Balenciaga, coin-sized dots adorned a dress created to mark the centennial of the French house.

Fig (37) Ermanno Scervino 2018 shows Dainty Polka Dots were evenly scattered across fluffy tulle evening gowns.

Fig (38) Costarellos Spring-Summer 2018 shows a Polka Dot Bohemian Print Dress with Keyholes it shows the potential curves and feminine charm in public where Adorable polka dot spread all over the dress.

Fig (39) Haute Couture Yanina spring 2016 shows a Chiffon Floaty Maxi Dress, Polka Dot, Off the Shoulder.

Fig (40) Dolce \& Gabbana guest polka dots red black at Spain folklore Spaghetti strap, Ruffle Hem Dress, Midi Dress.

Fig (41) Dolce \& Gabbana Spring-Summer 2017. Black Polka Dot Bohemian Print Dress with Keyholes with sleeveless Polyester+Spandex.


Mar 6, 2017 - Paris Fashion Week Trend: Polka Dots. Vogue's take on the polka dot trend at Balenciaga, Jacquemus, Loewe and Margiela at Paris Fashion Week. the fashion trends from Paris Fashion Week on Vogue.co.uk has been represented.

## Egyptian actors.

The very famous singer Abd Elhaleem Hafize on the movie of the melody of loyalty with his romantic song' missing you' is dressing a Polka Dots night gown Front pockets. Belted waist. Side slit with revert collar as shown at Fig (42) and Fig (43).

The very famous actress Soad Hosny at the film of ''To whom we would shoot'"(1980).The sensational Rockabilly Dress Pin Up Dress white on Black Polka Dot top part and white on red middle part whilst the bottom part whit on black. Dress Vintage 50s Retro Gothic Clothing Steampunk Swing Halloween. Superb quality rockabilly style swing dress is crafted from premium cotton featuring a kitsch polka dot print. With its understated glamour and figure flattering it, it's the perfect dress to turn heads at parties. This gorgeous fifties style dress offers a feminine cut with a fitted bodice and a red waist panel which nips in at the waist, defining curves for a fifties style silhouette as shown at Fig (44) and Fig (45).


Fig (42)


Fig (44)


Fig (43)


Fig (45)

## Experimental work

Polka dots become a huge fashion trend every five years or so, given the nature of going forward or back from our relationship with femininity. Sometimes from the peak of the last Pinterest aesthetic to this Polka Dot brown outfit of Pretty Woman where it is fashionable for women to work as lady.
The polka dots come in fit and loos dresses or short Swiss polka dots blouses, giving us a lovely quick look that the sweet Provence or seems to be fun enough not to be boring. On the other hand it will be likely to stick with the idea that women should wear clothes like ladies. Creativity in recreating classics vintage is very attractive .Some Polka dots are $100 \%$ femininity whilst others certainly do not. But as far as spots and femininity go, all appearances are a fair game in 2017 or even in 2018.

العدد الثثاني عشر - الجزء الثاني
مجلة العمـارة والفنون
A 100\% cellulose jersey fabric have been chosen and printed at two sections white on black and Black on white with a gradient size of Polka Dots with mini dress mid sleeve length as shown at fig (46).
The second dress is from chiffon fabric dyed on black and printed white on black Polka Dot Chiffon Maxi Dress .the dress sleeveless As shown at fig (47).


## Conclusion

Although Ideal representation of old school femininity, Polka Dots are everything but basic. For all those who think it is a trend of the past, Come to think about it, this style never come out of style. The classic and elegant style dominated the stands throughout 2017. From the runway to the everyday street style, everywhere the polka dots are existing. Designers like Balenciaga and Loewe were among the few who allowed really Polka Dots dresses to prove to the world that they were here to stay.
Polka Dots have a whole new look as well as a contemporary and modern outlook. This year was all about different sized dots where it goes larger than life with oversized dots or more minimalistic with something more conservative.

## References

[1] August 16, 2014.Retrived from.https://xibitsg.wordpress.com/tag/polka-dots/
[2] Ian Brown (2015) Polka Dots were once a symbol of the plague, and other surprising details 5 .
pattern.https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/fashion-and-
beauty/fashion/polka-dots-were-once-a-symbol-of-the-plague-and-other-surprising-patterndetails/article27066844/
[3]Chloe Pantazi, 2013.http://petite.about.com/od/vintagefashion/ss/A-Pictorial-History-Of-Polka-Dot-Clothing.htm]
[ 4] Burdastyle .2015.http://www.burdastyle.co.uk/polka-dot-skirt-04-2015-125a
[5] Beryl Bainbridge 2011. The Girl in the Polka Dot Dress. Europa Editions. ISBN 978-1-60945-904-8
[6] History of Polka Dots.(2014). Retrieved from.
https://xibitsg.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/polka.jpg
[7]The Polka Dot Pattern in History Of Fashion.https://www.fashionologiahistoriana.com/ costume-history-legends-essays-in-english/polka-dot-pattern-in-history-of-fashion [8] Logan Sykes, (2015)The History Of Polka Dots In Photos. https://www.townandcountrymag.com/style/fashion-trends/news/g1364/history-of-polka-dots-in-photos.
[9]Peacock, John (2007). Fashion Since 1900: The Complete Sourcebook. Thames \& Hudson. ISBN 0-500-51345-7.
[10]https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/fashion-and-beauty/fashion/polka-dots-were-once-a-symbol-of-the-plague-and-other-surprising-pattern-details/article27066844/
[11] Chelsea White.http://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-4315092/Nina-
Dobrev-gets-sexy-spot-sheer-polka-dot-top.html\#ixzz5DsSul3ak.
[12] Molly Hannelly. 2017 TREND REPORT: POLKA DOTS
.https://www.moodfabrics.com/blog/trend-report-polka-dots/
[13]Esther.http://morningstar84.blogspot.com.eg/2013/03/elizabeth-taylor-blue-Polkadot-dress.html
[14] Deasy, 2017 Feminine Female Lifestyle Trends .https://femaline.com/2017/01/24/90-ideas-for-formal-sleeveless-dress-make-you-look-elegant/
[15]KatieFrost(2016). Retrieved from https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/entertainment/news/a4

0422/kitty-spencer-princess-Diana-charity.
[16]Jude Stewart.(2015). Patternalia: An Unconventional History of Polka Dots, Stripes, Plaid, Camouflage, \& Other Graphic Patterns, ISBN 978-1-60819-613-5, 154 pp.
[17] Fashion series, documentaries and movies. Retrieved from https://www.pinterest.com/pin/139682025922234586/
[18] Retrieved From. http://www.michaelkors.com/women/clothing/dresses/_N-28ei

