

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

Small designers in spotlight on Inauguration Day

January 21, 2021



Doug Emhoff, Kamala Harris, Jill Biden and Joe Biden wave from the Capitol steps. Image credit: Getty

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

While Inauguration Day in the United States represents the official beginning of a newly elected administration, it became a massive platform for emerging designers this year.

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During a pre-inaugural event at the Lincoln Memorial on Tuesday, Vice President Kamala Harris wore a Kerby Jean-Raymond-designed Pyer Moss coat over an Oscar de la Renta dress and first lady Dr. Jill Biden supported young designer Jonathan Cohen with a purple ensemble. On Inauguration Day, the vice president wore looks designed by Christopher John Rogers, winner of the 2020 CFDA Fashion Award for American Emerging Designer, and the first lady donned looks from New York-based label Markarian created by Alexandra O'Neil.

Power of color

Dr. Biden's choice of the color blue for her inaugural custom-made wool tweed coat and dress ensemble was not a coincidence, in fact, it meant to symbolize trust and stability. More transparently, blue is the color symbolic of the Democratic Party.

While Dr. Biden wore a calming ocean blue, Vice President Harris, Michelle Obama and Hillary Clinton all wore variants of purple, symbolizing unity, as it is a blend of red and blue. Purple has been representative of wisdom, royalty and balance, and was associated with the suffragette movement.



Barack Obama and Michelle Obama arriving at the inauguration. Image credit: Getty

In what some are assuming was a nod to her political history, Hillary Clinton's purple Ralph Lauren pantsuit was the same color she wore during her concession speech to Donald Trump in 2016.

Former first lady Michelle Obama's purple ensemble was designed by Los Angeles-based designer Sergio Hudson.

Mrs. Obama has done her part in helping elevate the designs and voices of up-and-coming designers, wearing a lemon-colored dress and jacket from Isabel Toledo for her husband's first inauguration in 2009. Then, New York-based designer Jason Wu gained immediate praise after he designed the first lady's evening gown for the first inaugural ball.

In his last few weeks in office, Donald Trump and the Trump Organization publicly lost ties from numerous corporations since the violent attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.

Last week, real estate brokerages Cushman & Wakefield and JLL cut affiliation with Mr. Trump, and home-sharing app AirBnB cancelled all reservations in Washington, D.C. this week amid concerns of more violence surrounding Joe Biden's inauguration yesterday ([see story](#)).

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