

COMMERCE

## Alber Elbaz departs from Lanvin

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*Illustration of Lanvin's Alber Elbaz*

By STAFF REPORTS

Alber Elbaz, creative director of Lanvin, is the latest designer to step down from his position at a top luxury house.

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News broke on the afternoon of Oct. 28 that Mr. Elbaz will be leaving Lanvin, effective immediately, after a 14-year tenure at the French fashion house. The fashion industry has been ripe with departures as of late, showing creative instability in the sector and underscoring the pressures involved with upkeeping infamous labels.

### Leaving Lanvin

Lanvin provided a statement to **WWD** shortly after telling its employees of Mr. Elbaz's departure. According to that statement, the house is in the process of preparing an official statement to be released within the week.

WWD suggests that the statement will say the designer and upper management of Lanvin parted ways amicably. It is unlikely that the statement will hint at who will succeed Mr. Elbaz.

But, sources have said that there were disagreements and building tensions between Mr. Elbaz and the brand's owner Shaw-Lan Wang and CEO Michele Huiban. Tensions are said to have been on the rise because Mr. Elbaz felt that the house had "a lack of strategy and targeted investment" and was "compromising [its] image in Asia," but wishes Lanvin "the future it deserves."



*Alber Elbaz*

The charismatic Israeli designer's staff was told of his departure prior to the general meeting. The unfinished pre-fall collection will have to be completed without Mr. Elbaz.

Given the timing of Mr. Elbaz's departure from Lanvin, many are speculating that the designer will succeed Raf Simons at Christian Dior. Mr. Simons announced he was leaving Dior just last week and the house has yet to publicly name a successor ([see story](#)).

Interestingly, in 2011 following former creative director John Galliano's dismissal from Dior, Mr. Elbaz was in talks to join the French atelier. The talks did not proceed at that time because Mr. Elbaz has an ownership stake in Lanvin, but it is not currently known if he has forfeited his share upon his departure.

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