

the RUNWAY REPORT

Fashion's New Rules Diversity is key for the Fall/Winter 2009 runway season as each designer deals with the reality of today's world. Whether flaunting a collection that flies in the face of adversity or giving a subtle nod to that reality, each is moving forward with his or her own unique perspective and inspiration. Color, understandable silhouettes and versatile, yet unique fabrics rule the day and fur fits perfectly into the season's focus on extraordinary looks with a fashion point of view. The result: high-style pieces that are collectible and wearable.



Thakoon

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Designer Thakoon pushes forward with his vibrant fashion message for Fall/Winter 2009 with an emphasis on color, fur and fun. When every model sported a lush fox toque, the audience recognized from the start that Thakoon has an affinity for fur. Neutrals – dove gray, mushroom, ivory and black – were the base of the collection and the designer executed them beautifully in a black chiffon blouse with a tiered silver fox stole and an African gray feathered fox bomber. But canary yellow, bottle green, orange, fuchsia, indigo and red provided the color boost that gave the collection its vibe and vitality. Yellow, the season's newest fashion star, was the basis for a wool felt coat with dyed-to-match golden fox collar as well as a feathered fox chubby touched with black. Thakoon's furs were an adventure in fantasy – all brightly colored and feathered. From his king parrot-feathered fox-winged cape to an orange and green fox bomber, it was a fun fashion romp sure to cheer his fans.

Luca
Luca

Luca Luca

Designer Raul Melgoza is a man dedicated to the mission of bringing new strength to a brand with an established ethic of chic. The label is known for its pretty dresses and sportswear, but this season the designer amps it up a notch by also focusing on suits to reinforce the feminine brand. The collection, rooted in shades of gray with touches of blue and burgundy, featured smart furs for his sophisticated customer. Some casual chic winners from the collection include a dyed ombre fox chubby, perfect with grey flannel trousers, and a cropped charcoal wool jacket with sheared-mink collar and cuffs. His long black wool knit vest layered in dyed fox was shown belted to double as a sporty dress. A rich blue Swakara jacket showed his ability to create clean, elegant wardrobe must-haves. The collection also paid attention to its customers' dressier needs: a black sheared-mink capelet with stand-up collar and jeweled brooch was heavenly for the cocktail set.

Carolina
Herrera

Carolina Herrera

Carolina Herrera is in an understated, yet elegant mood for Fall/Winter 2009. She knows that her customer will respond to the one-of-a-kind, richly colored and textured fabrics and looks presented on her runway. Herrera focuses on slim, waist-defining looks, turning them out in deep copper, caviar, cassis and lapis blue. A forest green turn-back collar mink jacket is cinched with a link belt and shown with statement-making lace trousers. This richly elegant jacket would work equally well with tweed, herringbone or flannel. Herrera's Swakara coat with silk pant has a collectible, one-of-a-kind feel, a subtle take on fur that makes a lasting impression.

Carlos Miele

Brazilian designer Carlos Miele presented an eminently wearable collection that reflected his interest in architecture, modernity and the female form. Geometric patterns and prints, much evident in

Carlos
Miele

the collection, played out in Miele's fur looks as well with his dark gray patchwork mink jacket with black mink detail and a cardigan-style tuxedo coat in pastel mink patchwork with a brown mink border. Both offered his customer a modern take on mink. A gray ruffle-front astrakhan bolero with black sheared-mink collar played into Miele's fascination with femininity. A rich aubergine cropped patchwork shrug, the perfect topper for his charmeuse evening gown, could just as easily be worn with sexy jeans. Miele's fall collection proved once again that the designer's unique perspective on women and fashion is a winning formula.



Verrier

Verrier

Smart, sassy and confident. Ashleigh Verrier knows her customer. For Fall/Winter 2009, Verrier sent out a beautifully constructed collection aimed at the pretty young things she dresses. Framed in black and white with a dollop of red and midnight blue, Verrier's designs hit all the right notes with a flirty mix of girly looks and men's wear styles and patterns softened with just the right feminine details. The result: smart, wearable looks that are sure to please. Case in point: a coquettish midnight blue wool tweed dress with mink sleeve detail. For bolder looks, Verrier fashions fur into a sexy cropped black shearling jacket worn with men's wear-inspired glen plaid pants and a black leather and mink gilet layered over a sheer paisley dress – wardrobe essentials to wear with jeans or dresses and perfect for clubbing or for going out on the town with one's BFF.

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