



Nicole Miller

Rebecca Taylor

Prabal Gurung

Christian Cota

Altuzarra

Carmen Marc Valo

# THE RUNWAY REPORT

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The temperatures outside were falling as Fashion Week moved into day two, but the runways and presentations were really heating up—especially when it came to fur. Whether designers used fur for trims, accessories or full garments, they upped the ante, playing with texture, color, and proportion to deliver their most innovative looks. Shearing fur, dying fur, knitting fur, or mixing fur types, the results were fresh, new, and exciting. Fall 2012 is off to a great start!

## NICOLE MILLER

The fall 2012 collection from Nicole Miller is truly like walking on sunshine. The designer has embraced summer floral prints for a newly minted flower child—a new boho chic urbanite, perhaps? This full disregard for the fall-winter etiquette is rather fun, and we love her for it. With the prints came colors that enlivened the line-up altogether. Luxe fabrics in velvet, leather, and alpaca gave the collection substance. Flattering cuts, expert draping, and smart layering elevated the theme and defined its message. Dyed lamb and natural fox were used to good effect as oversized trims on jackets and coats—perfect for keeping that flower child warm and fashionable as the fall temperatures drop.

## REBECCA TAYLOR

This season, Rebecca Taylor went darker, a departure from her usual girly looks. Is the Rebecca Taylor girl going the Goth way? Not really. The collection was not somber in the least, but rather sophisticated in its use of muted colors and relaxed styling. A key example: an onyx shearling hooded vest. The layered looks were charming and cozy, yet managed to be incredibly chic. The duality of soft and hard was seen in stunning combinations, including wool knits with leather outerwear, and shearlings with silk. Finishing it off were high-heeled boots trimmed in Toscana lamb, perfect for her clients who strut their stuff with confidence.

## PRABAL GURUNG

Prabal Gurung presented a collection that ranged from dark to light and tailored, ladylike silhouettes to more provocative, sculpted looks. His ladies have come to expect his trademark precise tailoring, and

the designer did not disappoint—offering exquisite execution throughout the collection. He also introduced his darker, edgier side in looks like a neoprene dress with a patent leather spine harness. A standout coat mixes deep dyed black mink tiles, longhaired goat, and Mongolian lamb over patent leather trim for a bold statement.

## CHRISTIAN COTA

Creativity reigned supreme at Christian Cota, where the designer found inspiration in his native Mexico. Fusing different textile prints—many referencing various indigenous designs—on jackets, pants, dresses, and blouses, Cota presented a fresh and engaging vision. The results of his efforts were hard won—the designer's hands, covered in dye, belied the effort it took to create his stunning and skillfully-created collection. It was masterfully executed: mixing prints can be distracting, if not taxing, but Cota expertly selected and combined different colors, textures, and patterns into a visual equilibrium. A design in mink trim on a white wool sweater was unexpected but comfortable. His approach also translated well with the longhair fur applications, including a red fox vest with embroidery detail and a dyed mink cap-sleeve coat shown over striped silk pants.

## ALTUZARRA

The latest collection from Altuzarra is an achievement in contradictions. Who knew that combining menswear military influences with Moroccan and Indian touches and *un peu de* French inspiration could create such versatile, wearable sportswear? His outerwear was the standout, with lush, fabulous fox-trimmed trenches and pea coats and sexy shearling toggle coats.

But there were plenty of sleek, flattering pants and sexy little black dresses to fill the lifestyle needs of his clients. The Altuzarra Fall 2012 collection is modern, yet feminine, with a dab of color, a bit of print, and a slight drape bringing an intricacy of design that showcases this designer's genius.

## CARMEN MARC VALVO

Carmen Marc Valvo delivers graceful, easy elegance season after season for a growing legion of ladies on the “best dressed” lists. In his Fall 2012 collection, he features rich woolens, cashmeres, and crepes, often in combination with python, for a clean, modern look in silhouettes ranging from daytime to evening. Evening gowns in luscious hues of ruby and moss are chic and sophisticated. To keep his ladies warm he offers a range of beautiful furs, from his sleek espresso sheared mink or a sculptural ombré tiled mink funnel coat to the sportier black cashmere, leather, and longhaired goat sleeve coat.

## MORE FROM THE RUNWAYS

Throughout the Fall 2012 collections some standout fur fashion pieces are worthy of mention. Alexa Adams and Flora Gill sent out a sexy, sculptural collection for **Ohne Titel**, highlighted by a striped fox and shearling coat in black and white. **Cushnie et Ochs** redefined the clean and modern look with a wool felt high neck zipper coat trimmed in dyed blue fox. And **Helmut Lang's** red dyed fox and tooled leather jacket was perfectly suited for his sexy, confident clientele. Clearly, designers are having fun with fur this season, expressing themselves with innovative new applications and creative adaptations of fur to create signature looks within their collections.

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