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THE RUNWAY REPORT



Oscar de la Renta



DKNY



Dennis Basso



Pamella Roland



Badgley Mischka



Vera Wang

Fashion Week is strutting past its midpoint, and the biggest shows are still to come. As iconic designers put the finishing touches on their collections, the anticipation is palpable. The stylish set waits on the edge of their front-row seats, knowing that these kings and queens of the fashion universe won't disappoint.

OSCAR DE LA RENTA

Oscar de la Renta knows a thing or two about elegance. He is a master at his craft, after all. For fall 2012, his collection was still chic and sophisticated, but this time he also impressed with a young and fun spin, introducing bold embroideries in a pearl girandole style that would have made Eugénie, the last empress of France, swoon. The unexpected twist, the *pièce de résistance*, took the form of these same embroideries photo printed onto the next outer-garment up in a sort of mirror reflection—a mark of de la Renta's pure genius. Further enhancing the young, sweet feel were the precious baby blues and soft pinks that evoked fashion confection. An ice blue and silver goat vest, a mink scalloped-edged jacket in the same blue tone, and a rose feathered fox stole were the perfect toppers for the pretty-young-thing set. Still, there were plenty of offerings for the society women who return to the designer season after season including elegant suits and standout cocktail dresses. For them, classic looks like the anthracite mink jacket provide a graceful final touch.

DKNY

Donna Karan's DKNY Fall 2012 presentation was sleek and polished, leaving no doubts about her New York roots. Sharp tailoring and crisp fabrics are ideal for her chic, cosmopolitan clientele. Hers is a clean, smart look. Upping the glamour quotient, she introduced sexy, bold shearlings with croc stamped leather sleeves that are certain to be signature pieces.

DENNIS BASSO

For fur lovers, Dennis Basso is an undisputed deity—a genius that inspires with every collection. Basso—and only Basso—has the ingenuity to create an orange cocktail of Lynx and Russian sable. Not surprisingly, being who he is, the designer's fall 2012 collection offered showstopper after showstopper. Inspired by the Orient

Express, the collection was influenced by a first-class lifestyle. Basso didn't disappoint with creative treatments of the finest sable, lynx, and chinchilla in the market. He even introduced vanity cases swathed in Russian broadtail, perhaps the best fur accessory of the season.

There is something magical about a Dennis Basso collection. The designer and his team, headed by design director Emily Hunt, can translate dreams into realities. Case in point: his innovative and exceptional quilted broadtail coats and jackets. And one cannot overlook the exquisite red-carpet gowns that flowed gracefully down his runway, giving his clients even more to love.

PAMELLA ROLAND

Masterful in showcasing exactly the right looks for any given venue, Pamella Roland's fall 2012 collection was inspired by the chic, jet-set clientele of downtown Aspen. Starting with elegant day pieces layered with silk and jacquards and accentuated with various furs from mink to fox, the progression of her presentation saw an increased glamour until it arrived at the jaw-dropping gowns worthy of awards season. Longer furs complemented the red carpet offerings, upping the ante on elegance. True standouts included classic fur-trimmed wool flannel coats, a sporty, sophisticated fire red sheared beaver quilted vest with a hood, and a chic, yet simple, black mink bolero. Once again, Roland has proven her exceptional design talent.

BADGLEY MISCHKA

The Badgley Mischka collection came down the runway in a host of glitzy, deco-inspired looks. A variety of metallic and iridescent textiles and sultry silks in antiqued shades created a collection that was polished, glamorously feminine, reverent to its historical references, and still very current and red carpet ready. The reflective textiles and embroideries in this stunning selection played well for the cameras and flashbulbs,

and left the audience in awe. The first fur accessories, adorning the models' necks, heightened the drama. The jackets—a mink with an elegant embroidered hem, a sexy cropped shearling, a gold jeweled jacket with white fox trim and a lush silver fox cropped jacket with beaded inserts—added the glamour that the Badgley Mischka client adores.

VERA WANG

Vera Wang isn't one to offer predictable looks—she enjoys evolving her sense of style, twisting it around for others to decipher. This collection is an exercise in structure and fluidity, foiled by shaded geometric prints. The look is more “urban sophisticate” than “evening affair,” though the lines blur easily. Wang likes to introduce Eastern vibes into her designs, and this collection is no exception. Here, she successfully veils these elements to deliver honest design integrity without merely flirting with the ornamental. Black fox is her fur of choice. Whether used to trim sculptural wool felt coats and vests or for dramatic cape-like silhouettes, she uses it effectively to create ethereal softness with aplomb.

MORE FROM THE RUNWAYS

Impressive, creative uses of fur are a keynote for the fall 2012 season, including a convention-challenging offering from **Zero + Maria Cornejo**, which utilizes both sides of the shearling—skin and fur—as full design components. The cuts, kept angular and minimal, add a wonderful layer to her story. **Band of Outsiders** channeled the time-honored spaghetti western in boys and girls looks executed beautifully in rugged, sexy shearlings and ink-dyed fox. Ashley and Mary-Kate Olsen's **The Row** reflects a clean, minimalist, ultra-luxe sensibility echoed in their treatment of fur. For one look, they used mink as a bib trim on a chiffon blouse; in another they sheared fur in panels knitted together to create a ribbed sweater.

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