

Bjorn's Fashion Week Spring 2009

Mercedes Benz Fashion Week rolled out the red carpet once again to present the Spring 2009 Collections from designers big and small. The atmosphere was part trade show, part circus and part Olympics! Photographers, journalists and celebrities descended upon Bryant Park at 42nd and 6th Streets for a week of parties, runway shows and all-around fabulousness! Being a part of this was a dream for a small town boy like me who never thought he would be hobnobbing with the fashion elite (Not that I know any of them).



The first fashion show for me was BCBG Max Azria in the main tent. I waited with invitation in hand to enter the tent, while I sipped my overpriced coffee from Wichcraft, the sandwich and coffee bar in the outer tent. As you read on, you'll see that I've listed the designers' shows I saw and quick impressions of the looks they presented.



Friday

BCBG/ Max Azria: Draping and Romanesque features on knitwear with a young fresh vibe.

Perry Ellis: New look at sportswear for men with the use of nylon parachute fabrics and unexpected colors like pink, mixed with traditional plaids and windowpane checks.



Yigal Azrouel: A breezy and fun look in dresses and separates. However, I thought the silhouettes were a little out of proportion.

Rubin Singer: Some of the most beautifully tailored items of the collections I saw. The eel skin corset dress in blue was a standout.

I saw Jack Mackenroth from Project Runway and he graciously posed for a picture with me!

Liz McLean: Sheer dresses layered over leggings and other pieces. I called this "granny goes punk". Wearable clothing but for the very young.

Nicole Miller: Prints and boyfriend blazers (man tailored jackets) were the common denominator here. Lovely and totally salable.

Venexiana: The evening gown queen, Katie Stern, didn't disappoint with dresses swimming in Swarovski crystals and blooming with rich colors.

Off to Beauty Bar for a drink and then to sleep.

Saturday

Charlotte Ronson: This designer is the sister of DJ Samantha Ronson, so of course her gal pal Lindsay Lohan was there. The press was in an absolute frenzy to take LiLo's picture. The show itself was girly with wearable separates and cute dresses in muted tones. Anyone could wear these. The crowd loved it and I'm sure the editors in attendance took due note.

Tony Maticevski: An Australian with a gift for couture. Hand made dresses and absolutely beautiful details and draping.



Off to the Museum of Modern Art for the Salvador Dali exhibit (Even I need a break from fashion once in a while).

Sunday

Abi Ferrin: Flirty tailored dresses and a five-way top that was wrapped and tied to create different looks. Trend alert: jumpsuits.

Akiko Ogawa: Separates with hand-dyed ombre toned jackets and slacks. Leather and soft fabrics were the rule.

Tuleh: Man tailored slacks and couture dresses. Print mixing and sequins—this designer was all over the map with fun and beautiful garments.

Monday

Sergio Davila: Italian menswear with lots of cable knits and muted tones. Slightly tighter fitting slacks and slim sweaters.

Jordache: The return of this venerable brand was met with mixed reviews. Part flashback and part rehash of the same old jeans. OK for the tween set.

Ports 1961: Hand-made details like embroidery, knitted pieces and lovely color palettes made magic once again with a Moroccan twist.

Gottex: Swimwear as fashion? Lots of nautical inspired looks with black, gold and white accents. Figure flattering prints and tankinis. There was even a bridal bikini!

Tuesday

Dash: Southern California casual from the Kardashian sisters' store. More retail than design.

Ultimo Lingerie: Presented by spokesperson Mel B. (AKA Scary Spice). It was nice to see full figured girls on the runway. Olympic swimmer Amanda Beard was a model too. Spice looked nice!

Iodice: Again the details of ruffles, pleats and other manners of ornamentation took center stage. Wearable and stunning.



Wednesday

Nanette Lepore: Hand-beaded separates for day and evening with a nod to the Mediterranean for inspiration.

Douglas Hannant: A rooftop show at the Roosevelt Hotel. This collection is for ladies who 'lunch' and can afford hand-made custom gowns. Guests included Ivana Trump and Nina Garcia from "Project Runway".



Pamella Roland: All American classic design. One of her gowns was recently worn at the Emmy's. It was a real crowd pleaser with no surprises.



Milly by Michelle Smith: The models were secretary chic with topknots and dark horn-rimmed glasses. The clothes were Sergeant Pepper hippie fantastic. Long tasseled necklaces were the trend here.

Thursday

Reem Acra: Christina Applegate wore one of the gowns from this show at the Emmy Awards. Beautiful and red carpet worth gowns floated down the runway and almost all were stunning.

Leifsdottir/ Anthropologie: The undersea theme here extended to shell-like details and swirls like anemone on the blouses, dresses and casual looks shown here.



Gilded Age: Menswear for the masses. Dark washes, cardigan sweaters and denim trench coats were the order of the day. Trend tip: rolled and cuffed jeans. Saw "PR's" Kevin Christiana there and he agreed to an interview and a photo op!



Friday

Sabyasachi: A design collective from Asia showed design innovation with the use of buttons and other decorative statements. Tertiary tones took us away from primary colors and pastels that were used in many other collections. Here was another collection with a hand-made influence.



Carmen Marc Valvo: Master of simplicity. He created basket-woven effects with fabric on dresses and swimwear. Great show!

Omnialuo: Chinese designer inspired by her country's history. Pewter breastplate necklaces mingled with fish scaled gowns and dresses. This was a truly extraordinary show!

Well, we must bid adieu to Fashion Week for now, but rest assured, creativity and inspiration will live on in our Goodwill stores and the pages of the fashion magazines. We'll just have to wait until February to see what these artisans have in store for us for fall 2009. Keep an eye out for some of the trends and make them your own!