

The *runway* REPORT

New York – February 4th, 2008 | Fall/Winter 2008 New York Fashion Week was ushered in by atmospheric grey clouds and a soft rain which cast a hush over the bright lights of the city. Nothing however, could dampen the spirits in the tents, enlivened by exciting new Fur designs which reflected both the vitality and the diversity of the city. In the designer's hands, Fur took on the guise of a sophisticated lady, from soignée and sexy to ladylike and Frankly Feminine, all with more than a hint of élan and allure. Designers worked Fur into new shapes and weights that showed both the versatility and the uniqueness of this precious luxury fabrication and highlighted its importance in the designer runway collections.



Rubin Signer

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City shades of steel, copper, granite and concrete, were the backdrop for Ruben Signer's Fall/Winter 2008 runway show. Inspired by the sophistication of the Jazz Age, his dramatic orange leather vest with inserts of Saga fox (pictured) reflected the bright neon lights of a city night, while the cool colors of a knee-length Saga blue ice mink coat pairing sheared and micro sheared mink fur evoked the icy tones of the evening. Black broadtail was paired with Saga mink in a beautifully constructed, intricately worked coat with ranch mink inserts and a lush collar, while a fitted grey broadtail coat with a standup chinchilla collar and beautifully shaped sleeves evoked the imagery of the '20s. Echoing the sophistication of the Jazz Age, Ruben Signer's beautifully constructed and detailed furs impart both the artistry and design of fur for today's discerning customer.



Venexiana

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Sophisticated ladies walked the runway at the Venexiana show where designer Kati Stern showed fur at its most glamorous. Beautiful fur coats evoke luxury, while richly colored fur-trimmed shearling jackets recall the '40s. Her sweeping honey colored Saga mink wrap coat with oversized shawl collar and snake cinched waist (pictured) evokes images of the golden era of the Silver Screen, yet would be just as fitting on today's red carpet runway. A dyed silver fox shoulder shrug detailed with rose petals is the perfect finisher over an oatmeal dress. An antique golden tunic with Russian sable sleeves creates an elegant evening look. A designer who knows both how to cut a dress and a fur, Kati Stern cuts fur like fabric and translates this skill into her glamorous vision. Her Bordeaux swing shaped shearling, richly trimmed in fox, is a case in point. Like the glamour girls of the golden era, Stern's soignée looks translate into "money in the bank looks" for today's glamour girls.

Angel Sanchez

In a collection inspired by modern architectural design and '50s couture, designer Angel Sanchez uses fur in unexpected combinations and shapes that are both modern and luxurious. Easy elegance best describes his elongated sheared ranch mink vest, with the ease of a sweater, (pictured) layered over a nude organza blouse and a brown and white pony skin striped skirt. A designer who likes to play against type, Sanchez pairs a lush sheared ranch mink muffler with a casually chic brown and white pony skin striped strapless cocktail dress. Sanchez melds structure and free form design in an olive duchess satin trapeze shaped jacket shown with a slim satin skirt that works sheared ranch mink in a geometric design, evoking modern architectural detail. A designer who brings a contemporary feeling to couture inspired dressing, Angel Sanchez's fur designs are collectibles for the modern age.

Tuleh

Designer Bryan Bradley's Fall/Winter 2008 collection was a study in ladylike elegance, with a fresh new twist. Classic shapes and coloration take on an unexpected new guise in the hands of this talented designer. Bradley turns out a camel wool shirt dress in a new slim elongated silhouette cinched with a skinny orange snake belt and makes it totally modern with a dyed bright orange oversized fox shawl collar. Bradley plays with proportion in a cap sleeve sheared blue iris mink elongated vest, (pictured) layered over fluid coco silk trousers. For evening, a lush dyed fox collar adorns an iridescent metallic silk evening coat, for a feminine new take on a classic menswear style. His animal print stenciling on a super-sheared mink coat provides the perfect mix of attitude and femininity. A new approach to color and an unexpected way with fur coupled with his non classic approach to classicism make this collection a must have for his loyal following.

Jason Wu

This recent Rising Star Award winner has a fashion sensibility that is both feminine and nonchalant. Wu softens a menswear flannel trouser with a raspberry satin blouse and the piece de resistance, a soft blue iris sheared mink tuxedo coat with a long haired mink collar. A classic grey sweater and striped skirt gets the soft sell too – topped with a short sheared blue iris mink muffler. Pretty, poised and sophisticated define the look created by a luxurious brown sheared mink scarf knotted perfectly over a charcoal wallpaper wool sheath.

Angel Chang

Not one to go with tradition, designer Angel Chang takes the blouse in a new direction turned out in metallic yarn with a luxurious mink yoke. Finn raccoon, in turn, is the unexpected trim for a beautiful cowl neck sweater.

THE NATURAL, RESPONSIBLE CHOICE

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