

The *runway* REPORT

February 5, 2008 | The pulse was throbbing inside the tents today as Fashion Week moved into Full swing. Against a snowy sky, editors as well as upscale retailers and the Fashion elite, sported their newest Furs from swakara to sable, colored to natural shades, and coats to winter weather's de rigueur accessory, the Fur hat. Stormy weather seemed to bring out the best on the runway with luxurious Fur vests and jackets leading the way for Fall/Winter 2008, all presented with panache.



Peter Som

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Peter Som's Fall/Winter 2008 collection was an eclectic mix of color, pattern and texture taking his fashionable customers on a fast paced romp that included brightly colored furs, wrap skirts, asymmetrical one shoulder dresses, and slouchy, yet sexy '40s-style trousers. For fur fashionistas, the collection included must-have items such as his deeply collared off-the-shoulder ombre mink mantle - part vest/part cape, shown with a Donegal tweed wrap skirt (pictured). Ombre tones were also used to effect in a plum collarless mink coat with $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeves, the total look an exercise in effortless nonchalance. Som's bold palette took shape in a broadtail fly away car coat, featured in peacock and in fatigue green, both with lush fox collars. Texture came into play in both the distressed zebra-print fox-feathered evening coat and a '70s-inspired cheetah stenciled sheared goat double-breasted coat.



Oscar de la Renta

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In his fall/winter runway presentation, Oscar de la Renta reinvented ladylike elegance. His beautifully cut shapes, extraordinary fabrications - opulent yet incredibly modern - and his intricately worked furs set the tone for a new modern elegance. The classics were reworked in a striking herringbone tweed coat with sable at the hemline and a simply cut black-and-white plaid tweed coat with black mink-whip stitch trim. His black Swakara embroidered coat, in a simple bell shape, was threaded with metallic. De la Renta also applied the Midas touch to a lean shearling coat, touched with sequins, embroidery and a wash of gold, perfect for his Upper East Side golden girl customers. There were more golden moments in his tulle dress topped with a cropped bronze shearling vest, a fitting final to a brilliant show.



Catherine Malandrino

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Downtown doyenne, Catherine Malandrino, was inspired this season by the creations of sculptors Claude and Francois-Xavier Lalanne playing with rounded proportions, pleating and draping this season. Her furs took on an almost sculptural feel, in lean, long shapes, often pleated or draped, that followed the curve of the body. Her beautiful pastel sheared mink belted jacket (pictured) paired with a satin skirt, was finished with a series of pleats that both accentuated and extended the shoulder, while in her longer reversible sheared blue iris mink coat, pleating was integral to the entire sleeve shape. A blue iris sheared mink wrap top with cocoon-shaped sleeve and draped front was juxtaposed against a textured black pencil skirt. Texture was also the feature in Malandrino's dyed-black sheared mink jacket with hand smocking and embroidered sleeves, a testament to her artistry in fur.



Luca Luca

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In a palette of mostly black, white and gray that was enlivened with accents of color, designer Luca Orlandi presented his unique vision for Fall/Winter 2008. This successful designer, worn most notably by celebrities and socialites, shows great style and sophistication. Orlandi knows how to make women look beautiful and this season he works his magic with draping, pleating and wrapping. A standout in this collection - the cropped sleeve violet sheared mink standup-collar tunic - (pictured) is a fresh, pretty take on a classic. A taupe sheared mink wrap jacket is all about ease and elegance. Orlandi knows how to take a woman from day to evening, and he fashions grey broadtail into a subtly sexy sheath, detailed with a sheer jewel encrusted neckline. The perfect topper for the black-and-white story - his marble patch mink coat manages to be dramatic and refreshingly light at the same time.



Carolina Herrera

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Carolina Herrera went to the hunt this season, with a tip of the hat to Sherlock Holmes, in a sporty chic collection that was right on the mark. This change of direction heralded Ms. Herrera's return to a casual yet stylish look. Decorative flora and fauna prints mixed with tweed, velvet and chiffon in a collection rife with dramatic capes, sweeping swing coats, slim riding pants, jaunty plumed fedoras and sporty

new furs. The vest, a signature piece in the collection, was shown in a variety of guises. An equestrian-style vest in quilted cotton and dyed long-haired beaver (pictured) offered a new variation on the trend, while other pattern and texture mixes include licorice-colored Swakara and fox playing off a sporty windowpane plaid. The colors of the forest were the inspiration for this season's furs as the brown Swakara short

swing coat with fox trim set against a velvet skirt and organza blouse epitomized the ultimate in rustic chic. Rustic tweeds and checks interplayed with fur for some winning looks including the chic double-faced windowpane bomber with fur sleeves and the tweed vest with amber fox trim and burgundy gazar skirt, a look that took hunt club style straight from the tack room to the hunt ball.

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