

the RUNWAY REPORT

What a finish! Fur scored big on the Fall/Winter 2009 New York runways and was a major part of the buzz. From sleek broadtail in glorious shades of gray to oversized fox coats in neon brights to sculptural sables in beautiful blonde tones, the season's gorgeous offerings made it evident that designers just love working with fur.



Isaac Mizrahi

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He's back — and in a big way! Designer Isaac Mizrahi's Fall/Winter collection, appropriately named Smile, snapped, crackled and popped right out of the box. From his first mood-elevating model in color-blocked tones to his brighter-than-bright metallic finale, Mizrahi was in fabulous form. Tongue-in-cheek handbag hats topped cozy coats, including furs artfully done with furrier David Goodman. From his mink blanket, a cozy dropped-shoulder coat in dyed brown sheared mink (and perfect over a men's wear cardigan), to a plum wool coat layered with an oversized feathered-and-dyed silver fox collar, easy luxury defined the presentation. Small fur pieces were in play, too, including an oversized hunter sheared-mink ring, which was a natural shoulder accent, while a burgundy dyed silver fox bolero was the perfect evening wrap, topping a multicolor swinging Sixties' sequin shift. With vim and vigor, Isaac Mizrahi's fearless fashion is the just the right antidote for fall.



Chado Ralph Rucci

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A designer who walks a fine line between modern intellectual and old world couturier, Ralph Rucci stayed true to his aesthetic in his Fall/Winter 2009 collection by manipulating fabrics with formidable artisanal techniques. He presented his amazing knot-tied leathers, his matelasse rainwear quilted to resemble exotic skins and his ash brown puckered-silk rain jacket with sable cuffs and collar. Shape and construction are inherent in Rucci's fur designs, which have been translated into sumptuous creations with the added skill of Nick Pologeorgis of Pologeorgis Furs. Rucci's fetish jacket and his honey sable coat both showed sable skin-side-out in a pattern that evoked the arts-and-crafts movement. A lavish java chinchilla shaped bolero with belled sleeves was a natural foil for sleek gray pants. With an elegant sculptural style like no other, Rucci's presentation was a fitting finale to the tent shows.



Helen Yarmak

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Helen Yarmak's customer relies on the designer for her signature furs, crocodile handbags and one-of-a-kind jewels. Crafted of the finest fabrications, these designs have a casual yet luxurious feel that was evident in Yarmak's 2009 Fall/Winter collection. For example, a hooded, tiered black fox coat, on a chiffon base, embodied easy, modern luxury while a white ermine jacket with black ermine tails conveyed an unmistakable air of nonchalance. Both beauty and versatility were evident in a Russian sable blouson that reversed to leather for a sporty daytime look and a lush sable jacket that not only reversed to leather, but also had a silk shell that transformed it into a silk jacket with fur trim. Yarmak's men's furs have the same ease, including a super-luxe sheared-mink varsity jacket with knit sleeves and a sleek fisher lined poplin duffle coat. Hitting just the right note for today's modern globe-trotting customer, Yarmak makes clear she's in her element.



Zac Posen

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In a season defined by simplicity, Zac Posen's Fall/Winter 2009 collection stood out for its amazing mix of Forties' glamour, Victoriana and modernity as the designer's lush fabrications, feminine details and intricately cut shapes evoked the couture world of old. Posen meticulously cut his dresses, gowns and furs in a palette of soft metallics, including champagne, gold, silver, platinum and pewter, as well as in a golden damask-and-tulle coat with a sable collar and a shimmering jeweled and metallic floral print coat with a dyed-mink Pierrot collar and trim. Posen's intricate designs extended to his furs, including a sheared-mink intarsia coat in fawn with contrasting sheared-mink sections and a slim confetti-printed coat trimmed in sheared-red mink.

Origin Assured

Fur — The Responsible Choice

The new Origin Assured™ (OA) label on a garment assures consumers about the provenance of the fur they are buying. This new voluntary initiative by the fur trade — including the IFTF, American Legend Cooperative, Finish Fur Sales, Copenhagen Fur and North American Fur Auctions — reflects the industry's commitment to openness and transparency in the production of fur. When you see the OA™ label, you can be assured that your fur comes from a country that follows the highest standards governing fur production.



For more information about the OA™ program, the IFTF, and to find participating fur retailers around the world, go to www.originaassured.com



Chris Benz



Venexiana



Dennis Basso



Zac Posen

Accessories

In a season in which simply cut, statement-making shapes were paramount, fall's fur accessories more than held their own. Designers made the most of fur's versatility showing it sheared, colored, feathered or straight on. From oversized clutches to lush fur rings and collars to jaunty hats with an effortless look and feel, fur accessories provided the finishing touch. Mix fur accessories with tweeds, metallics, leather or satin and go from day to evening with ease. After all, fur is the most luxurious and versatile fabric of the season and the best investment.

Examples include Venexiana's Swarovski cuff with fox trim, Chris Benz's brightly colored sheared-fur hats, Peter Som's dyed silver fox neck ring, Dennis Basso's sheared-mink and broadtail caps and Zac Posen's dyed fox muffler with fox floral appliqués. All demonstrate that a little bit of fur can go a long way towards creating glamour and excitement.

THE NATURAL, RESPONSIBLE CHOICE

FUR

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