

NEW YORK  
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RUNWAY  
REPORT

J. Mendel



Michael Kors



Jeremy Scott



Philosophy di Alberta Ferretti



Adrienne Landau



Chado Ralph Rucci

What a week it was! Exceptionally tailored garments, luxuriously finished and made with great attention to detail, defined the fall 2012 collections. Elegance was key, and so was chic. Fur was everywhere, in remarkably innovative and creative adaptations—indicating that, given the turbulent economic times, people are looking for strong value and investment pieces.

## J. MENDEL

J. Mendel's fall 2012 collection felt like a beautiful and airy symphony—one that began with an opus in white. The first all-white looks introduced the luxury notes repeated throughout the collection: clever touches of furs, silks and embroideries, and more than a few exotic skins. As the models continued their parade, the intricacy of the garments progressed, beginning with the exquisitely embroidered 1920's-style slinky gowns and building to the lush, textural coats with up to eight types of fur. His multi-fur dégradé coats were statement makers. And, along the way, there were a few fun surprises including a shadow fox, finn raccoon, and ostrich feather skirt and a crocodile and mink clutch that is sure to become an Upper East Side favorite.

## MICHAEL KORS

Who knew that cabin fever could be so chic? It looks like Michael Kors fell under its spell when he designed this collection, though in this case it was more Aspen chalet than Vermont lodge. Mr. Kors proves, once again, that he is the king of luxe sportswear. Mixing buffalo checks, tartan plaids, and tweeds with bold, luxe furs and sleek, buttersoft leathers, he creates looks that translate equally well for city or country living. His elegant beaded jersey gowns prove his ability to move effortlessly from easy sophistication to full-on glamour. It isn't a secret that Kors loves to accent his collections with strong statement furs. This season was no exception: fox, raccoon, and Mongolian lamb equally made their mark, as did shearling, all exquisitely executed.

## JEREMY SCOTT

Each fashion capital has its *enfant terrible*, the one who ruffles feathers and challenges conventions. In New York this *provocateur* is undeniably Jeremy Scott. His collection was a rainbow coalition of colors and

computer graphics with references to well-known animated characters. Who can comprehend Jeremy Scott's inspiration? Regardless, we do love his unabashed cartoon world, full of silly fun and optimism. Besides cleverly designed "Pop" clothing, he introduced a bright, rainbow colored chubby jacket in longhaired goat. The look was surprisingly sophisticated, though still wildly colorful and unexpected. For those with less exotic tastes, he designed a polychrome equivalent in shadow fox to great effect.

## PHILOSOPHY DI ALBERTA FERRETTI

There is always something very *au courant* about Philosophy di Alberta Ferretti. Season after season, Ferretti finds a way to grab our attention with at least two or three looks that are simply phenomenal. The Ferretti woman is a no-nonsense, modern individual who embraces her style with simplicity. One example: her chic, tailored grey broadtail jacket with woolen notch lapel. This collection took an unexpected twist, somewhat academic in this case, if not clinical. The sleek looks brought to mind a glamorous scientist sporting sharp skirt-suits, shift-dresses, and coats. The scientific reference read more closely with a few details of PVC belts accessorizing the suit jackets and clear overcoats covering wool and fur coats alike. The effect was surprisingly elegant and void of any coldness. Now the question is, will her PVC overcoat be a fur piece's new ally during bad weather?

## ADRIENNE LANDAU

Industry veteran Adrienne Landau showed a collection for fall 2012 that read like a film in three parts, each a unique design perspective expressed and translated in fur. The Landau touch is free-hand and unapologetic. She puts her irreverent, creative stamp on a broad range of fur types from rabbit to sable, always introducing unexpected new treatments that have established her as

a fur design pioneer. This collection introduced a few novelties, including a number of stenciled sheared fur pieces, ranging drastically in scope from classic glen-plaid to beautiful cherry blossom sprays. The *trompe l'œil* effect is an innovative and welcome addition to an already expansive vocabulary that makes this designer a cross-generational favorite. It seems that there isn't a fur or treatment Landau hasn't mastered.

## CHADO RALPH RUCCI

Ralph Rucci is the closest thing there is to a national treasure when it comes to American couture design. He is one of a handful of designers in history who has developed a style so distinct that it is recognizable the world over. What Mr. Rucci has been missing all these years was vulnerability. This has changed with this new collection, featuring looks that are airy and delicate, without losing that Chado Ralph Rucci Midas touch. The collection was undeniably younger and exuded a newly rediscovered sense of femininity, while retaining its ultra-luxe sensibility—this time with a flirty wink. A perfect example: his sheared mink sweatshirt. We are obsessed with his fur treatments, especially his sleeves. The leopard-print tailored trapeze coat is a showstopper; his red-dyed chinchilla cocoon sleeves are a force in fur construction.

## MORE RUNWAY LOOKS

At Bill Blass, designer Jeffrey Monteiro included a plush black dyed fox coat to add drama to his clean, tailored collection. An ocelot printed shearling was a chic standout among Ralph Lauren's English country looks. Reed Krakoff's minimalist style was elegantly articulated in a paprika lamb zipper vest that was understated and luxurious. And, at Wollman Rink in Central Park, Moncler Grenoble's models skated across the ice in fabulous fox jackets and trims that could make you melt.

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