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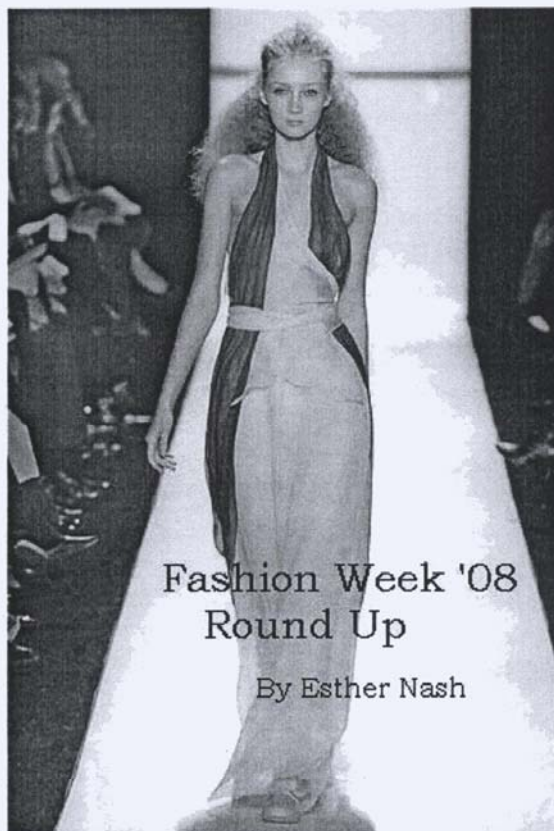


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FASHION



Fashion Week '08
Round Up

By Esther Nash

Fashion Week 2008 Round Up

Loose, Playful, Colorful, Luxurious

By Esther Nash

Fashion week was bigger and brighter than ever. Each season has become more exciting with high-profile celebs, socialites, and debutantes all flocking to get in, sporting larger and larger diamonds each season and all wearing the latest accessories.

As predicted Spring 2008 was loose, playful, colorful, luxurious, and 1970s inspired. Lycra was everywhere. It keeps fashion fit. It is now being used not only in bathing suits, but jeans, mascara and nail polish. Garments tend not to sag or stretch out as quickly when Lycra is employed.

Judith Ripka is the best when it comes to unique, artistic jewels -- the color combinations speak for themselves. I modeled a number of the Spring 2008 pieces, and it's true, diamonds are a girl's best friend. They compliment and enhance every style and garment.

Make-up ready, accessorized and fully styles, I found my way through the crowds to my front row seat at the **Gottex** show, but it was more like Fantasy Island come to life. The venue was transformed into a tropical paradise. The swim collection was full of bright colors, floral; prints, stripes coupled with large sunglasses, chunky jewelry.

Rosa Chas's collection sported sexy one-piece suits in dune, salmon, white and sage, embellished with tortoise shell, accented with geometric shapes and complimented by large ceramic jewelry. Every season is sexy and outrageous although unpredictable. Once you see a show like this, it's impossible to ever go back to donning a traditional suit.

Anna Wintour was seated across from me in front row with her body guards at the **Anne Klein** show, represented by **Paul Wilmot Communications** The collection was career driven, practical, timeless lines with a little color for Spring 2008.

At the **Charlotte Ronson** show, to my left and to my right the seats were taken by socialites from New York, Miami and Los Angeles. It was more like a fashion shoot/interview with a tabloid magazine or a private prep/boarding school reunion. The styles were very 1970. Plaid, button-down skirts were paired with tanks tops worn sans bra; loose dresses hem above the knee, high waisted jean shorts and super high heels were features.

Buckler, represented by **Kelly Cutrone of People's Revolution** revealed black tuxedos for men with leather trims. The models carried pistols and walked to circus music that turned sexy. The crowd was cheering, stomping and screaming in praise of the beautiful clothes and the handsome models. The garments were tailored, fitted slacks, skinny ties in shades of grey, pastel, yellow and orange.

John Varvatos, stunning! The collection was fluid. It included fitted suits with high waists to give a slim impression. Eurostyle silhouettes, soft light sweaters, striped and solids in charcoal grey, steel, black and brown.

Sabyasachi showed a grouping of hand died, sequined, embroidered, embellished, ethnic bohemian garments. Military inspired jackets, coats and woven hats were worn with flat sneakers in wine and green. Dresses were loose, long and flowing.

Pamela Roland represented by Alison Brod, showed rich luxurious textured fabrics, colors were influenced by the port city of Valencia, Spain host to the world cup, high waisted sailor pants, paisley chiffon tunics, high waisted skirts paired with floral ruffled blouses.

Luca Luca Spring 2008 was inspired by modern stained glass. Organic and geometric shapes fused into prints worn in fabrics of linen, silk and jacquard.

BCBGMAXAZRIA, represented by Patrick McGregor, indulgent fabrics, puff dresses, short shorts, bulky jewelry, platform shoes, hair worn long and flowing make up by Mac and Max factor in nude glossy shades with matching handbags and accessories.

Erin Fetherston, represented by Deborah Hughes Inc, very cute, she sported playsuits with blazers and headbands and bowed blouses in white and gray.

Style360 represented by Claudine Gumbels' Think PR, hosted a red carpet kick off cocktail reception at Henri Bendel along with Nikon with flowing champagne, beer by Peroni and deluxe chocolates, then an unforgettable red carpet evening at BoConcept Design Store in partnership with Max Factor featuring the Sylvia Heisel fashion installation jammed with models, fashionistas and photogs.

Malan Breton, represented by Claudine Gumbels' Think PR at the Metropolitan Pavillion, the show was a must see. When I arrived there was a line of 500 attendees waiting for entrance. The designer used luxe fabrics mixed with architectural shapes, couture finishes and runway stopping looks.

Anne Bowen, represented by **Lia Pepper**, unveiled a spring 2008 look for all ages, sophisticated and chic, butterfly and firefly sequins, whites, gold, satin dresses, kimonos, business suits and capes.

Sabyasachi collection was hand dyed, sequined, embroidered, embellished, a true mix of bohemian ethnic garments. Military inspired jackets, coats and green woven hats were highlights.

Pamela Roland showed high waisted skirts paired with floral cascading ruffled blouses, high waisted sailor pants in red white and blue.

Custo Barcelona, represented by **Deborah Hughes Inc.**, showed a collection that was very 1970 inspired, featuring metallic society pieces. Geometric prints and classic tailoring, deconstructed ruffles printed palettes, and short suits with large handbags were highlights. In Spring 2008, bigger is better!

Akiko Ogawa, represented by **Seventh House**, unveiled cutesy playful baby doll dresses, bowed blouses and dresses in black and white, with models wearing large flowers in their hair. There were also military inspired sporty rock-and-roll looks.

Tadashi Shoji, represented by **Company Agenda**, unveiled a collection comprised of natural dyes and original design concepts in delicate pleated fabrics. The idea was to emulate the rhythmic, fluid patterns of the sea in shades of Aegean blue, opaline, sea foam, and bamboo.

Milly by Michelle Smith, a fellow graduate of F.I.T., represented by **Laforce and Stevens**, showed a line of sexy, feminine, glamorous and sophisticated styles in navy blue, white, and hibiscus with print and bead work.

Have fun shopping!