

London Fashion Week: Off-Schedule

RACHEL ARTHUR, WGSN 09.10.08

Designers A-C Designers E-H Designers I-K Designers L-O Designers P-R

Designers S-W

Designers I-K

WGSN reports from London Fashion Week's spring/summer 2009 Off-Schedule shows.

Inbar Spector



Inbar Spector's second season at London Fashion Week saw a collection that the designer referred to as her own "interpretation of couture". Using her unique method of twisting and ruching, **an oversized and disproportioned silhouette was achieved.**

"My spring/summer 2009 collection uses **light simple fabrics, twisted and knotted into voluminous structures** with a hint of delicate femininity and classic romanticism," said Spector.

Gold zip detailing on jackets and all-in-ones added a masculine touch to a collection that was otherwise dominated by elaborately netted skirts and revealing dresses with silver chain detail. **Fabrics were both delicate in lace and tulle, and more binding in artificial leather**, while head-to-toe black brought a dark mood to the season, with just an occasional splash of iced blue or white making for a fresher feel.

Ioannis Dimitrousis



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Entitled "Golden Rust", the third London Fashion Week showing from crochet-master Ioannis Dimitrousis took its **inspiration from safaris and world tribalism**, which resulted in a sportswear look for next season.

Wooden beading on body-conscious dresses was the main focus for womenswear, where asymmetric hemlines, fringing and piping added interesting detail. Rich gold, rusty oranges and chocolate brown dominated, offset only by the occasional use of fuchsia or blue - a stark step away last season's neon focus.

Menswear included vest tops constructed similarly with metallic thread or wooden beads. **Knee-length shorts or skinny trousers had contrast panels and pockets**, appearing alongside a button-up jacket with voluminous shoulders that provided an alternative shape.

Jacob Kimmie



Soft tailoring with a subtle oriental feel was the focus at Jacob Kimmie as three sections made up a collection that was inspired by the designer's love for women and the female form. "[It's a] representation of power, of style, age and beauty," said Kimmie.

Simple wardrobe staples opened the show in shades of white and cream silks. Next up **a wealth of monochrome print** arrived ranging from geometric stripes - a Kimmie signature - to an abstract floral. And finally **block colour brought a bright finale** in yellow, turquoise, purple, pink, orange and peach, several of which were teamed with bold feather trims.

From floor to knee, skirt length was varied, but **shape concentrated on a nipped-in waist**, further accentuated by sheer billow-sleeved blouses. Bias-cut dresses, a suit-like all-in-one, wide-cut trousers and long-line blazers also had their place.

Jojo & Malou



Entitled "Private Eyes", Jojo & Malou's spring/summer 2009 collection paid homage to both **the figure of the traditional PI and the unconventional detectives of American author Paul Auster's novel *The New York Trilogy***, combining tongue-in-cheek designs with surreal prints.

Hemlines were consistently high but focus was predominantly on the waist, with fitted dresses cinched in with stark black ribbon, or ruffling out into a frill. **Structured capelets were paired with two-tone trilbies** and T-shirts, humorously printed with the features of a bespectacled face. The trench coat - a staple of the private detective - was reinterpreted with oversized lapels, cropped sleeves and a crystal studded bow at the neck.

A predominantly primary palette of red, blue and yellow lent the collection a graphic feel, whilst accentuating the hand-drawn prints that varied from a paisley interpretation to Dali's melting clocks often tempered by a plain polka dot.

Karen Brost



Karen Brost returned with a collection where "old school Hollywood glamour [met] Studio 54". **Eclectic is an apt word** as cropped jackets and wide-cut trousers hit the catwalk alongside tiered minidresses, sophisticated knee-

length cuts, or floor-sweeping Grecian styles.

Oversized Victorian pussybows acted as embellishment, while fitted sleeves with puffed shoulders, pleats and frills created an abstract silhouette. **Print was key as hand-drawn illustrations of women edged a sheer halterneck style**, and cats and feathers appeared dotted on other dresses.

Crisp cottons, resin-coated linens, satins and stretch silks were present in **a reasonably dark palette for spring/summer**, brightened by the poppy reds, stark whites and highlights of citron that appeared.

Kaviar Gauche



Inspired by the early 20th century style icon and double agent Mata Hari, Kaviar Gauche's latest collection was **a story of seductive sheers and illustrative embroideries** that channelled her powerful and exotic hold over the observer.

Tying in an Eastern influence, wide-cut harem trousers, bejewelled bodices and loose-cut maxi-kaftans all had their place, while floor-length dresses in layers of chiffon and silk cut into revealing fly-away strips were highlight pieces.

Pearls and crystal studs around necklines made for intricate embellishment while **ruffled hems and softly pleated layers brought an element of volume**. Although predominantly a black colour palette, shades of ivory through to pale cream were frequent, with accents of oriental jade green and rose offset by folds of metallics.

Krystof Strozyna





This season Krystof Strozyna drew **inspiration from folk art derived from his Polish heritage**. Curtains of fringing and organic detailing were contained within sharp tailored silhouettes highlighting the designer's preoccupation with craftsmanship.

Although **predominantly simplistic in form** - shift dresses were key - a fresh formal aesthetic was presented through the likes of a structured silk racer front evening gown with embedded pearls, and various styles with fissure-front seams.

An earthy colour palette served as cohesive element in silhouettes that boasted **bold fabric contrasts**: a loose-fit raw-edge hessian top was paired with a slim tailored chiffon skirt and accessorised with Neolithic skeletal fragments.