

Luxury reigns at New York's Couture Fashion Week

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September 2008's Couture Fashion Week in New York City was a delightful three-day event of stunning fashion shows, top-notch entertainment and luxury art and product displays. The event, held in the elegant Majestic Ballroom of the Westin Times Square in the heart of the Big Apple, was well attended by diplomats, fashionistas, socialites and international press.

In keeping with Couture Fashion Week's tradition of presenting an international roster of distinguished participants, designers at this season's event hail from Colombia, Russia, Turkey, Egypt, Albania, India, Australia, Romania and the USA.

Leading Romanian couture fashion designer **Romanitza** returned for the third time to Couture Fashion Week New York on September 7, 2008 with the presentation of her latest collection. Each successive collection from this gifted designer has surpassed the last, and she continues to make inroads into the USA luxury market.

"This was Romanitza's strongest collection so far," says event producer Andres Aquino. "Her palette and combination of colors was pure spring and her fabrics were exquisite choices. Overall feminine and classic at once."

Turkish designer **Nedret Taciroglu** made her much-anticipated USA debut during New York's Couture Fashion Week. The inspiration for Nedret Taciroglu's latest collection was "Sultans' Signatures." The Sultans' Signatures were not created by the Sultans themselves, but by calligraphers during the Ottoman Empire.

Each one is distinctive and reflects the ruler's power through intricate designs featuring both letters and patterns. In order to introduce the Sultans' Signatures to the world, Ms. Taciroglu blended history with modernism over a period of five months to produce a beautiful 30-piece collection. She used the signatures of Mehmet the Conqueror and Suleyman the Magnificent, among others.

The designs also feature Swarovski crystals, chiffon and draping as well as the use of red and beige emphasizing the glory of the Ottomans.

Katerina Bocci returned to Couture fashion Week with an elegant and stunning collection of jewel-bright colors. Ms. Bocci began her career and opened her own fashion atelier in her native Albania.

In 2001 she moved to the United States and quickly became known in the Detroit area for her impeccable fashion designs, selling to a growing savvy and sophisticated private clientele as well as to boutiques such as Kleinfeld in New York, Roma Sposa and Alessandra Bridal in Michigan and Sposaitalia in Canada.

Ms. Bocci was named Best Designer in Michigan by Hour Detroit Magazine, WDIV Channel 4 and Strut Magazine. Her designs have been featured in The New York Times, Hour Detroit , Style and Inside Weddings magazines, and she is a favorite designer of TV news anchors Lila Lazuras and Rhonda Walker, Miss Universe 2006 Zuleyka Rivera, Miss Albania 2007 Sadina Alla and singer Fergie.

Designer **Nina Gleyzer** draws inspiration from her love of nature's beauty and delicacy: the softness of a flower petal, the intricacy of a spider web, the billowing of wheat in the wind. Through her skillful use of a palette of feminine lines, dramatic colors and innovative fabrication, Ms. Gleyzer choreographs a dance of elegance and sophistication. Her latest collection is entitled Symphony #1: Purity. Love. Wisdom. A native of St. Petersburg, Russia, Ms. Gleyzer is a master of couture design now based in Atlanta. "Nina brings poetry to fashion," says event producer Andres Aquino.

A native of Colombia now based in Miami, **Cecilia Perez** has been creating unforgettable feminine fashions for over 24 years. Her driving passion is her love of art drawn from her experience and training in watercolor and oil painting as well as sculpture. Her artistic talents naturally progressed into sewing, knitting and fashion design.

The gifted designer creates her couture fashions through draping over mannequins. Her decidedly contemporary designs are characterized by an exquisite attention to detail, impeccable construction and use of rich luxurious fabrics. She also designs one-of-a-kind bridal gowns. Ms. Perez received thunderous applause at Couture Fashion Week for her beautifully crafted collection.

Chicago-based designer **Sararose Krenger** debuted her high-end line of evening wear entitled "Sararose" at Couture Fashion Week. The passion and pizzazz behind Stix and Roses, Ms. Krenger has been designing and styling for a number of years. The collection featured sweetheart necklines, bold collars, fishtail skirts, and body-hugging silhouettes.

A key element in this collection, texture was seen in the mixtures of such fabrics as satin, silk dupioni, and tulle, as well as in the use of tufting. Colors ranged from soft champagne gold, burgundy, luminous silver, emerald green, and of course, the ever-sophisticated and luxurious black.

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