

WRAP PARTY

WINTER IS ABOUT COVER ARTISTS,
WHILE SPRING LOOSENS UP.



Marc Jacobs
Blush wool coat with
leather belt, \$2,100; blush
fox fur stole, \$3,600;
Rita leather handbag in
Bordeaux, \$1,450; python
pump, \$2,195, all at
marcjacobs.com.

by MICHELE MEYER

Wraps are the stars of style this winter, thanks to exceptionally oversized outerwear.

Coats are longer, broader across the bodice and rounder at the shoulders—but forget '80s beefed-up shoulder pads and body armor. Today's crème de la cozy is as much about ease as it is about protection.

"We're embracing a more casual lifestyle, and these relaxed shapes are about flexibility," says Colleen Sherin, Saks Fifth Avenue senior fashion director. Thus, cashmere parkas and limber leather trenches enter evening, while daytime programming has a fur flurry pelting on dresses, vests, sweaters and skirts, as well as sandals, boots and backpacks. ▷

All images courtesy of the fashion houses.



Ralph Lauren
Shearling capelet, \$4,998;
matching tulle beaded
evening dress, \$8,000;
suede opera-length glove,
\$550; beaded heels,
\$1,500, all in champagne;
18k gold-plated brass
citrine chandelier earrings,
\$995; and cream lamb
shearling hat, \$1,950; all
at ralphlauren.com.



Billy Reid
Lamb's wool-lined nylon/wool parka with rabbit fur collar, \$1,695; wool turtleneck pullover, 30 percent yak, \$395; Campbell wool slacks, \$425; Scott leather loafer, \$425, all at billyreid.com.



Emporio Armani
Knit jackets, in pale pink or baby blue, \$795; belt, \$595; felt cloche, \$195; clutch, \$680; bow-topped pointed-toe leather shoes, \$575, all at armani.com.



Giambattista Valli
Astrakhan and mink fur coat in scarlet, \$19,500; mink vest, \$6,700; wool/silk slacks, \$1,425, all at saksfifthavenue.com; leather Valli bag, \$3,000, at Capitol Charlotte; satin/mesh booties, \$1,300; at bergdorfgoodman.com. All at giambattistavalli.com.



Nancy Gonzalez
Crocodile tote bag with mink, \$3,650; saksfifthavenue.com.

Fur-o-cious

Fur has a new fleece on life—as anything but the standard-issue shapeless mink your mom and granny wore. Marc Jacobs' mink-trimmed sunglasses in 2012 and Céline's faux fur-lined Birkenstocks last spring may have inspired designers to go wild. But so has the latest technology, which allows a lightness of being from fur shorn short without damage.

"I loved the glossy sleekness, the colors and light weights," says Downing. "Fur becomes seasonless." Perhaps that's why not only mink, but also fox, rabbit, beaver, astrakhan and shearling stole shows this season.

These skins sprouted in the most unexpected spots: beaver bands on sleeveless Marni sheaths (and matching shoulder-high knit gloves), fox hip pockets on Jason Wu's navy parkas and sable cuffs on Prada's coat dresses.

Equally unexpected were Céline's supple and sleeveless mink cocktail frock, Fendi's skunk-striped booties and furry boxer gloves at Altuzarra and Marni for women, and at Belstaff and Michael Bastian for men.

Untamed, too, was the palette. Fendi flung Smurf-blue fox tiers on cocktail dresses, and Roberto Cavalli attached red and black shaggy-dog fringe to ladies-who-lunch tweed suits. Antonio Berardi toyed with plush sweatshirts in royal, black and white, and Michael Kors blew up manly camouflage in the same colors on ultra-feminine mink coats. Sportmax raised its game with a beaver checkerboard.

Perhaps foxiest of all were Altuzarra's intarsia stunner in black and white for women, and Hermès' astrakhan peacock coats and mink pullovers for men.

"Fendi even gave models fur mohawks," says Barneys' Ogura. "The point seems to be that fur is easy to wear—and fun."

These new cocoons suit 2013's catwalk catnip: roomy sweatshirts, kimono-esque jackets and ballooning gowns.

Granted, fashion is fickle by nature, but this flow from body-hugging to billowing occurred in the past year as highly influential designers Miuccia Prada, Marc Jacobs and Raf Simons dipped into the archives of '40s and '50s greats, such as Christian Dior and Cristobal Balenciaga.

You'll stay ahead of the curve by following their lead in soft-shouldered coats of chocolate cashmere at MaxMara, python-piped black wool at Gucci and kilt-strapped midnight melton at Christopher Kane.

The boldest of the broad brigade form a rainbow: scarlet at Christian Dior, pumpkin at Jil Sander, mustard at Bottega Veneta, green at 3.1 Phillip Lim, cobalt at Michael Kors and violet at Stella McCartney.

Pales also skate into the season, with baby blue at Gucci and peach at Gianfranco Ferré. But pink is the prima ballerina of confectionary tints, cropping up

at Céline, Emporio Armani and Jonathan Saunders. Referred to as "blush," the hue will dance on long after winter's final curtain and deep into 2014, says Ken Downing, Neiman Marcus fashion director. "It's modern and icy, not the sweet pastel of bridesmaids' dresses. It's very sophisticated when mixed with chocolate, charcoal and raisin, but also makes black worth a second look."

Those who choose to live big on the surface also need to think narrow beneath, as in pencil skirts at Donna Karan New York and pipe-cleaner pants at John Galiano, advises Tomoko Ogura, senior fashion director at Barneys New York. "It's all about proportion—and balance makes the silhouette more flattering."

Similarly, trim silhouettes—in inky tones—are logical backdrops for menswear toppers in saturated shades of dusky slate at John Varvatos, copper at DKNY and wine at Burberry Prorsum, says Varvatos: "It's the season of the coat." ▸



Christian Siriano
Ostrich feather
camisole, \$1,998;
metallic chiffon
column skirt, \$1,790;
both at christiansiriano.com and select stores,
nelmanmarcus.com;
shoes by Christian
Siriano for Payless,
payless.com.



Spring Preview: A Twist in Time

And the best is yet to come, as trends mutate for spring. As it turns out, those mohawks for autumn (also at Haider Ackermann) weren't just crazy but were plumage presages: Designers are migrating from fur to feathers and fringe, with fowl play on tunics, frocks, handbags and shoes—and who knows what else!

Jet-tasseled, open-backed sizzlers at Roberto Cavalli are spring's film-worthy turnarounds, the sequel to fall's mink-trimmed silk mousseline at J. Mendel and anything-but-angelic beaded wings on sheer tulle at Rodarte.

And what began as extremely boxy last spring, then softened more practically (and flatteringly) for winter, will become even wider and looser in 2014, particularly below the waist, Saks' Sherin says.

Thanks to Marc Jacobs and other fall collections, "Pajama dressing has been a real trend," she notes. "The more people see it, the more they realize they can wear it and not look like they just rolled out of bed. Ease can be very elegant: chic, pulled-together and easy to wear."

But keep an even keel. Compensate for high-waisted, wide-legged pants, culottes or skirts with cropped or fitted tops, Sherin says. "When you wear fluid bottoms with a tunic, make sure the latter is slim through the hips."

The same applies to men. A sharp trench and slim tee add crispness to relaxed trousers at Michael Kors, while slender slacks and short jackets offset elongated crewnecks at Costume National.

And good news: Winter's white-out remains in effect, not only for women but also for men, according to Eric Jennings, menswear vice president and fashion director at Saks Fifth Avenue, who says, "White is stark, clean, minimal and sophisticated."

But sorry, Travolta wannabes, that excludes retro polyester three-pieces from the disco '70s. Instead, the head-to-toe snowsuits strutting men's spring runways are cotton, poplin, silk and light wool at Givenchy, Jil Sander, Giorgio Armani and Dolce & Gabbana.

"Still, for sure these suits are not office wear," Jennings says. "They're a way to stand out and make a statement at special events."

Think big. Dress bold. You'll be right on cue. ♦

Roberto Cavalli

Silk knit dress, price upon request;
ring, \$710; bracelet, \$1,285; and
necklace, \$2,665, all with Swarovski
crystal details; robertocavalli.com.