

CALIFORNIA Apparel News

THE VOICE OF THE INDUSTRY FOR 67 YEARS

MARCH 12-18, 2010

STUDENT SHOWCASE

Elegant Edge at FCI Show

Who: FCI The Fashion School
What: Passion for Fashion: Fall '10 Collections
Where: Celebrity Centre, Hollywood
When: February 25, 2010

The scene: Tribal music, indie rock goddesses, Coco Chanel, Asian culture and eco-awareness were among the wide-ranging themes in the latest collections from students of FCI The Fashion School, the fashion program in downtown Los Angeles that offers accelerated design programs. The show offered the Fall 2010 collections of FCI's latest crop of beginning fashion design students, as well as a graduate gallery, which featured the collections of Michelle Liu and Jesus Ruiz.

Student Designers Ginger Arnold and Toan T. Le put a new twist on the classic cheongsam. Arnold created hers in an edgy skull-print brocade, while Le's came in an understated tweed. Vanessa Strait took inspiration from female-empowering music to create her collection, which included a flirty leopard-print swing dress with fuchsia godets. Laura Parma updated classic suiting fabric with feminine folds.

Diana Rubanenko and Diana Cosma Herbert used tulle as an architectural element. Both designers used the fabric to encase their dresses in colorful clouds that swirled around the body. Classic 1930's styles seemed to inspire Smaily Vasquez and Sharon Yen. Both showed dramatic gowns that draped the body in liquid satin. Graduate Liu dubbed her collection "Dryads" and offered an eco-themed collection that ranged from asymmetrical dresses with origami-like pleating details and ruching. The designer showed off her pattern-making skills with a series of dresses with cutouts featuring inset strapping. Ruiz went for comfortable elegance with his collection, dubbed "Met-amor-phosis", which opened with a blouson dress in chartreuse and navy. Ruiz included plenty of dramatic details, such as peaked shoulders, feather trim and lattice insets. *-Alison A. Nieder*

