



1. BCBG

The Max Azria camp continued their dress obsession from last fall but dropped all of the appliqué embellishments, instead centering the spring collection around light, transparent fabrics such as organza and tulle. In a delicate color palette of ivory, nude, lilac and pink, the clothes were ethereal but tailored. Leather belts cinched carefully constructed corsets and bustiers. Highlights included organza trenches, skirts and coats that came with elaborate pleated pockets.

KENYA HUNT

2. GENERRA

Designer Pina Ferlisi focused on the casual and sporty, showing cropped pants with printed sleeveless tops and easy, knee-length dresses. A commercially safe collection was spruced up with discreet interesting details, such as buttons up a sleeve or flattened kick-pleats on tops.

MAISIE WILHELM

3. Y&KEI

Y&Kei's "urban hippie" translated into a lovely, live presentation of free-flowing layered looks worn by ethereally attractive ingénue-type models who posed on a rotunda stage. The dresses came in various lengths; one stand-out was a metallic silver number with a delicate appliqué scalloping design. A few fringe overlay pieces worn cascading over dresses paid particular homage to the hippie ideal of rebellion and freedom.

TRANG CHUONG

4. RAG & BONE

The most exciting part of this show was checking out top editors and celebrities such as Kate Bosworth sitting in the front row. The collection was all classic sportswear for men and women, sexed up with jaunty fedoras. But the clothes — suits and shorts, dress shirts and cropped trenches — lacked imagination.

MAISIE WILHELM

5. YIGAL AZROUËL

The designer looked to the '70s for his cultural reference, showing relaxed fitting beach-inspired wear. Some items worked better than others. We loved the ankle-grazing gowns (the mango version especially) but could have done without the too-literal handwrapped strapless dress that resembled an outdoor patio rug.

KENYA HUNT

Better with age

Tracy Reese on celebrating her 10th anniversary

"I guess I never envisioned doing as many products as we're doing. It was just a natural flow."

Reese

Happy anniversary! Your company is now old enough to start referencing itself.

It's funny because with this collection, I ended up revisiting things I did in the past. I was surprised to see that what I was doing 10 years ago, like biased dresses and beautiful blouses I'd feel for all over again. It's nice to come back around. This season also has a '30s/'70s influence on the silhouette.

Why those two decades in particular?

I found myself watching a lot of old Hitchcock films and Faye Dunaway movies like "Chinatown" and "Bonnie and Clyde." It just sort of seeps into your consciousness.

When you look back over your last decade in business, are there any aspects of your career track that you find unexpected?

I guess I never envisioned doing as many products as we're doing. It was just a natural flow. We've added the home line, shoes and jewelry. We're also pursuing a fragrance line. When you're a student, you don't realize how much your horizons will broaden. And I also didn't know how much of my job would become management when I first started out. It's a juggling act, but I still end up at home on Sunday sketching feverishly.

Do you spend a lot of time at home when you're not working in the studio?

I've got a house upstate, so I'm there a lot. I love getting outside of the city.

Your family is always in the audience at every show. Will you celebrate this collection with an anniversary party?

We hadn't really thought of that. I've had a really odd year because my brother passed away. My family has shared in the whole process. When I was just starting, they were there for me with money and time. I really wouldn't be here today if they hadn't stepped in and helped.

KENYA HUNT



REESE