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Relax, and Do It

LA Fashion Week: Laid Back Style

I must say that the plastic surgeons in Los Angeles must be the best because no one looks older than 25. Everyone is decked to the max in diamonds and bling. In New York, I would need at least three bodyguards. But in LA, they think I am paranoid. Beverly Hills-based home furnishings designer Barclay Butera whispered in my ear, "You really need to relax and be more laid back; this is LA."

LA fashion week at some points feels more like a beach party than a trade show, and I have to say I love it. Lucas Prato songs were everywhere, along with sunglasses, low cut kimono tops, bulky jewelry, slim pants, stiletto heels, and young beautiful boyfriends. In fact some female celebrities changed dates for each show, like any other accessory. Again, I love it.

So, let's talk fashion. Kelly Nishimoto showed young feminine Hollywood looks. Voom by Joy Han was all young sport, high energy styles that will make sure you are noticed for the right reasons. Kara Saun's tailored garments are perfect for the red carpet. They were made of luxury fabrics with plenty of detail. IRON was inspired by the sea and land. The designer's original paintings transferred beautifully as prints on dresses and blouses. Joseph Domingo, like his name, showed dramatic and Latin influenced glam, chic designs perfect for society luncheons and celebrity affairs. Kevan Hall bedazzled once again with gowns for princesses.

Rock and Republic goes glam rock.

Sue Wong amazed and mystified with Asian influenced designs, embroidered necklines and bejeweled gowns and dresses that would be perfect for the Oscars and elite parties. Elsie Katz's flapper-influenced old Hollywood styles mixed feathers and prints in a light hearted collection. Samora offered a sweet collection, light pastel colors, with soft light materials perfect for sunny weather.

Juan Carlos Obando's lovely collection colors included tangerine and earth tones. Buffalo by David Bitton was young, hip, fashion forward. Antik Denim's show was very much about rock and roll and liberty for all. The message was rebel. Rock and Republic had an extravagant affair, complete with a performance by The Pretenders. The styles were glam rock with rhinestone-studded jean pockets and low-rise, treated denim. Men's designer Suspect had a "pay for your own drinks" party. The colors for men's shirts were purple and pink with striped sweaters and scarves, obviously designed to reach the young country-club set.

— *Esther Nash*

Model is wearing a design by Samora.