



FashionNext is a fashion design competition featuring established Chicago area designers. Each participating designer will create a couture garment inspired by one of five

The logo for FashionNext consists of the word "FASHIONNEXT" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letters are set against a solid magenta rectangular background.

selected pieces from the exhibition *Chic Chicago: Couture Treasures from the Chicago History Museum*. The winning garment will become part of the Museum's permanent costume collection, one of the premier costume collections in the world, and will be placed on display in *Chic Chicago* for the remainder of the exhibition run.

Participating Designers

- Jermikko Shoshanna
- Melissa Serpico Kamhout
- Lauren Lein
- Paul Sisti
- William Thomas Walton and Roger Price

FASHIONNEXT

Designer: Jermikko Shoshanna
Company: JERMIKKO

Style

The Jermikko collection offers fine exquisite imported wools and silks created in whimsical looks that are intended to “beautify the mind, body, and spirit.” Jermikko’s designs are influenced by modern and contemporary art along with her passion for the 1920s.

Beginnings

Jermikko began her fashion career in 1968 designing for several companies before starting her own business. The Jermikko label was founded in 1979 in a studio apartment with \$50 cash, two tree trunks for chairs, a home sewing machine, a metal card table, three yards of fabric and a 6-pound Aussie dog, Lonesome, to act as the fabric weight.

Specialties

Jermikko is a designer of high-end coats. The coat is the main theme in her collection including daytime coats with suits or separates and evening coats over elegant gowns or cocktail attire.

Portfolio

Found in upscale boutiques, specialty stores, and department stores, Jermikko maintains customer loyalty in locations throughout the United States, Japan, and Australia. The label is sold in over 674 retailers nationally and internationally.

Statement concerning FashionNext design

I believe the back of a great design should exhibit as much interest as the front. I wanted to capture the 1920s feel of drape and movement through the dramatic layering of bias cut strips in the back of both of my pieces. Art deco and draped form fused with linear, modern architecture is very close to my design philosophy which I translate into elegant “coat dressing” for the modern woman. I am inspired by fashions that are timeless.

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Designer: Melissa Serpico Kamhout
Company: SERPICO

Style

The SERPICO collection is a modern clothing line inspired by the linear quality and spatial integrity of modern and classical architecture as well as modern art and film. Transcendent of time and boundlessly continental, the collection embraces the able, artful, and astute contemporary women. The use of fine fabrics and the influence of travels abroad create a line of continuously intricate textures and sculptural silhouettes.

Beginnings

SERPICO was created by Melissa Serpico Kamhout after graduating from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Originally working in the field of graphic design, following matriculation from Loyola University she returned to school to pursue her unquestionable passion for clothing design.

Specialties

The quality of the SERPICO garment and the involved details are of the utmost importance. Each garment is draped by hand using traditional pattern making methods to ensure realization of each original design and proper fit. Pure fabrics such as 100% cotton, wool and silk are used in the collection and hand stitching often completes the garments, affixing hand made trims and appliqués.

Portfolio

In September 2008, SERPICO opened a retail space adjacent to the design studio at 1514 N. Ashland Avenue in the Wicker Park neighborhood of Chicago. Experimental and one-of-a-kind pieces are available along with the current SERPICO collection.

Statement concerning FashionNext design

I very much loved the Comme des Garçons piece and the possibilities are endless with the concept of the convertible dress/gown, however I wanted to keep its inherent qualities only changing the silhouette, attitude and texture.

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Designer: Lauren Lein
Company: LAUREN LEIN LTD.

Style

Whether designing a feminine power suit for a couture client, or a unique collection for a specific store, Lein's signature style is recognized by eclectic blends of luxurious fabrics and textures.

Beginnings

Lauren Lein was born in Buffalo, NY on a large dairy farm and moved to Michigan at a young age. She began designing her fashions for paper-doll inspired dogs in her first meticulously illustrated book "Dana of Dogsville" at age 8. She kept up her love of fashion through the years working for major retailers JC Penny Co. and The Limited Stores, Inc. as women's apparel buyer, store manager, visual and advertising manager and special events coordinator. She graduated with high honors from Central Michigan University with an Applied Arts degree.

Specialties

Each piece of Lein's is complete with an artful touch - feathers, beading, fur trim, a simple bow or a hand-made flower. All of Lein's creations are designed, constructed, sewn or knitted in the Chicagoland area utilizing sustainable production.

Portfolio

Lein's avant-garde couture pieces, as well as her classic ready-to-wear collections, have been commissioned by Nordstrom, Marshall Field's, Macy's, and boutiques nationwide. Her custom creations are worn by notable women, including: Maria Pappas, Cook County Treasurer; Dorothy Fuller, Apparel Industry Board Inc.; Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court Cook County; Loretta Durbin, wife of U.S. Senator Dick Durbin; Judy Barr Topinka, past Illinois Treasurer; and Cookie Cohen-socialite and fashionista.

Statement concerning FashionNext design

Construction of my four-piece ensemble will be elaborate, like the Worth gown, but most importantly, comfortable, versatile, clever and would be show-stopping as well as worn more than once. This piece will be made from over 10 fabrics. The removable "apron" at the hips of the gown has a runway-esque bustle in the back. I could not resist the inspiration to add this wild piece – taking it from day, to runway.

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Designer: Paul Sisti
Company: PAUL SISTI

Style

The Sisti statement fuses art with fashion. The Paul Sisti fashion philosophy is simple - elegance that is elegantly simple.

Beginnings

Paul Sisti began his fashion career as a student at Ray Vogue School of Design where he began receiving recognition and awards for his distinctive designs.

Specialties

Sisti has a strong aesthetic relative to his bold use of color. Delectable, often unexpected confections of color combine with clean, architectural lines to transform contemporary women into modern royalty. He creates everything from modern-luxury sportswear to evening dresses and separates, often creating cohesive collections ranging from 5-12 ensembles, which utilize exclusive hand-painted silks which he dyes himself, hand-loomed fabrics, and couture artistic finishes.

Portfolio

Sisti's styles have been featured in the *Chicago Sun Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Women's Wear Daily*, *Today's Chicago Woman*, *Mode Magazine* and *Ebony Magazine*. His modes were featured on ABC's *Fashion Rocks with Leanne Trotter*, and he was also profiled in an interview by Janet Davies. Among his prestigious clientele are Jackie Jackson, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Patti La Belle, Dori Wilson, Hedy Ratner, president of Women's Business Development and Juana Guzman, vice president of the National Museum of Mexican Art. Paul Sisti's designs are marketed across the U.S., in prestigious boutiques and various trade shows, such as Style Max and Atelier, during New York Fashion Week.

Statement concerning FashionNext design

I was awestruck when I viewed the complete collection of couture creations in the Chic Chicago exhibition. My design of a short cocktail sheath dress with a detachable butterfly overskirt and gauntlet sleeves makes this a much more modern creation to be worn by today's contemporary woman.

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Designer: William Thomas Walton and Roger Price
Company: PRICE WALTON

Style

Price Walton's hallmarks remain beautiful, unusually executed designs with finely wrought craftsmanship, and high quality luxurious fabrics, for a new and modern couture. They endeavor to provide and offer the expertise and thrill of couture, with a never-ending search for true purity in design, luxury, and beauty.

Beginnings

Roger Price and William Thomas Walton joined forces in 1985 selling highly imaginative accessories and clothing at CITY, the high fashion clothing and furniture emporium. Both Price and Walton were students of The International Academy of Merchandising and Design, and they co-founded of THE FACTION13 in 1986; which was Chicago's first non-profit group of young designers presented as an alternative fashion guild.

Specialties

Incubated and groomed in a unique boutique/gallery environment, and given the luxury of time and freedom to "fine tune" their skills, Price and Walton practiced the nearly extinct fine arts of embroidery, couture embellishment and adornment; including feather work, hat-blocking, millinery, glove-making and bias-cutting techniques.

Portfolio

Price Walton has created ensembles for well known Hollywood entertainers and musicians including Veruca Salt, The Kronos Quartet, Nora Dunn, Victoria Jackson, and Cher. They were commissioned to supply the wardrobe for the remake of "The Great Gatsby," in 2004 set in modern day Harlem. In 1997, they designed a small collection for Donna Karen in New York City.

Statement concerning FashionNext design

Based on the Charles Frederick Worth evening gown as inspiration their design is the articulated body of a female wasp... a sliver hornet queen. Dangerous, and pointed... yet delicate, with her iridescent wings. Enrobed in a gossamer shell of transparent folds, and shiny ripples. Wild, but innocent as if sprung from nature herself.