

Jewelry adds sophisticated edge to spring '07 Fashion Week

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By Beth Braverman

NEW YORK—Fashion designers continued their retreat from bling during New York Fashion Week's Spring 2007 shows, but simple pendants, cuff bracelets and subtler jewels slipped past the velvet ropes.

About half the designers who showed at the tents in New York's Bryant Park Sept. 8-15 sent jewelry down their runways. But instead of covering models in head-to-toe baubles, most fashion designers opted to finish an outfit with one or two well-placed jewels.

Clothing itself remained refined, with designers decreeing that dresses and shorts will be the must-have items for next spring. Dresses sashayed down the runways in a multitude of shapes and colors, assuring that the now ubiquitous ladylike trend will last for at least another season. Shorts, in both long and short versions, continued to emerge in both casual and sophisticated ensembles, paired with

everything from blousy tops to fitted blazers.

Fashion designers continued to play with volume: Billowing skirts, ultra-wide pants, elevated collars and bell-shaped coats gave runway looks a sense of expansiveness, while the waist-cinching belts—still hot for next season—pulled everything right back in.

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As for color, designers dipped liberally into the yellow palette, with every hue from maize to marigold appearing on multiple runways. Metallic materials also remained a favorite as designers played up the shiny, textured materials by pairing them with solid blacks, whites and reds.

While a few designers—notably Nicole Miller—created their own jewelry collections for the spring shows, others collaborated with jewelry designers.

Carmen Marc Valvo worked with Ben-Amun to create bracelets and necklaces for his show, which took inspiration from the drama and proportion of Georgia O'Keeffe's famed flower paintings. The minimal jewelry worked with the clothing, which featured oversized abstract patterns, voluminous pieces with hand-crafted details and a simple palette of midnight black, magnolia white and a wash of rose and gold.

Jewelry designer Coomi supplied intricate, graceful designs in yellow gold for the Gustavo Arango show, accenting a clothing line that included both muted white and beige colors as well as bold reds and navy blues.

Classic fashion designer Oscar de la Renta went with classic diamonds, tapping William Goldberg to accessorize his evening looks with ice-intensive pieces priced from \$200,000 to \$500,000. For more casual clothing, de la Renta opted to pair Jaeger-LeCoultre watches with looks that included lace embroidery and vivid colors.

Designer Carolina Herrera also went the classic route, selecting chunky gold bracelets by Verdura to accent a clothing collection featuring soft shapes, gentle silhouettes and light fabrics.

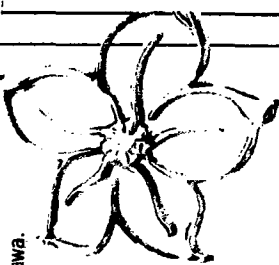
Jewelry designer Chris Aire, who previously held his all-jewelry runway show off-site, made it into the main fashion show tents at Bryant Park this year. Among the highlights: a "Red Gold Feng Shui Empress Gown" worn by supermodel Alex Wek. Dripping with 3,713 diamonds, the handmade gown was valued at about \$50 million.

ways to your jewelry store

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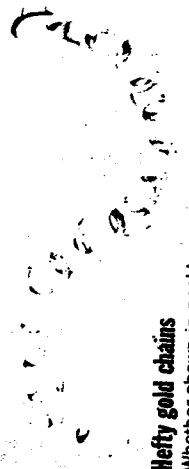
Simple pendants

Continuing the minimalist trend, designers opted for sweet charms on dainty chains. Seen on the runways of Chado Ralph Rucci, Mark Bouwer and Akiko Ogawa.



"Fragrant" pendant in white gold with diamond set by Jewel of the Moon.

Necklace in 18-karat yellow and white gold with diamonds by Aeren Henry.



Hefty gold chains

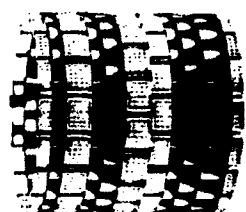
Whether shown in necklaces or bracelets, classic chunky chains abounded at Fashion Week. Seen on the runways of Carolina Herrera, Diane von Furstenberg and Heatherette.



Gold and enamel bangles with diamonds by Soko.

Bangles

Designers showed these 1980s favorites in a plethora of colors and stacked up both wrists. Seen on the runways of Lacoste, Tracy Reese and Nanette Lepore.



Cuff bracelets in 18-karat gold with diamonds and ceramic by Chanel.

Cuff bracelets

Thick cuffs showed up on diverse runways, with many designers pushing the pieces above models' elbows for a fresher, regal look. Seen on the runways of Baby Phat by Kimoi Lee Simmons, Carlos Miele and Nicole Miller.

Layered necklaces

Carried over from previous seasons, the layered look now features thinner, even delicate, necklaces. Seen in the runways of Charles Nolan, Ralph Lauren and Carmen Marc Valvo.