

Spring Trends: Project Runway Edition by Meredith Turits ('09)

Spring trends don't just live on the runway or in style reports from your favorite fashion bibles. They're very real - and very wearable - and are showing up in the collections of some familiar faces.

Ruffles

For her Project Runway Spring 2009 RTW collection, Season Five winner Leanne Marshall created ruffled patterns in her signature cocktail frocks. Hand-seamed, delicately-layered details span each garment. In designs for her signature label, ruffle constructions sometimes cover an entire section of a dress, and on other occasions, manifest in punctuated details on the bust or back. Leanimal is all about architectural silhouettes that frame the precise, sophisticated detailing in her designs.

Leanne Marshall's label is available at leanimal.com.

Sheer

Season Four champion Christian V. Siriano, the show's youngest ever winner, clinched the title of Runway King for his opulent, over-the-top dramatic garments. While Siriano's Spring 2009 RTW collection still includes big sleeves and even bigger ideas, the designer has scaled down the grandeur of many of his pieces, creating streamlined silhouettes. They hug a body's curves (or lackthereof, perhaps) like a glove. His sheer pieces, like those shown at Thakoon, give a tasteful peek of what's beneath without detracting from his youthful constructions and unexpected fabrics.

Christian V. Siriano's signature label is available at christianvsiriano.com.

Lace

Many thought it was a travesty to see Alison Kelly booted off halfway through Season Three. However, the New York-based designer has been doing just fine. Kelly's line showcases edgy and hip pieces that are incredibly wearable. Taking cues from runway trends, Kelly's own RTW line tastefully integrates the lacy detailing that designers like Diane Von Furstenburg and Verrier showed on the runway. Dahl's take on lace is a little tougher, hand-crocheted together with organic cotton, but the result is just as sugar-sweet. It plays on the soft and hard dichotomy inherent in her designs, showing how lace can be updated to go beyond lingerie.

Dahl by Alison Kelly is available at dahlbyalisonkelly.com.

Floral

In tandem with friend Michelle Chaplin, Emily Brandle's line is all about the patterns, which peppered the Spring runways. The L.A.-based designer from Season Five relies heavily on punchy palettes that include leopard print, geometrics, and loud florals in her cropped feminine silhouettes. Standout pieces from the company's Spring collection incorporate flower patterns, which show up on mini-dresses with distinctive, sassy lines, and flowy tops with girly detailing. Though Brandle's shapes are eye-catching on their own, the styled mix of bold motifs against neutral tones are serious attention snatchers in any arena.

Emily Brandle's Smoke & Mirrors is available at smokeandmirrorsclothing.com.

Hot Pink

Spunky South African Kara Janx made it down to the wire in Season Two. Since her stint on PR, Janx has been busy with her own signature line, which plays with some of the most spirited colors on the runway in the most wearable of ways. Echoing the Spring 2009 hues of designers such as Doo.Ri and Matthew Williamson, Janx's collection plays with blazing pinks and fuschias, as well as bright oranges, yellows, and greens. Janx's collection is a veritable rainbow of flirty, girly tops and dresses that are ideal for that ever-crucial office to nightlife transition.

↳ *Kara Janx's signature line is available at karajanx.com.*

