

BARCELONA FASHION WEEK

7 days of style

Barcelona Fashion Week kicks off with a host of exciting local talent

MARTA WENDLINGER
● Barcelona Fashion Week is upon us, and Fabrica Moritz on Ronda Sant Antoni has been dolled up for the 22nd PasaFAD, with stylish black-and-white fabric walls depicting young designers.

Inside, a stylish crowd waited expectantly for Andrea Ayalas' show to begin, to see what the youngest generation of designers is all about. Her collection featured blue/black dresses, pleated skirts with geometrical designs, funky layered skirts and trousers, men's brown loafers and an interesting mix of fabrics.

After an interminable wait, next up was PasaFAD, the catwalk featuring various up-and-coming young designers. One showcased a modern sailor look, set to Madonna's *Papa Don't Preach*, with navy blue pea coats, white sailor hats, red belts, black-and-white striped skirts, and very high heels, giving it all a '40s feel.

But not all the events in Barcelona Fashion Week were officially endorsed, as some took place outside the circuit. One was *Huellas Cubanas* by

Ute Prause, a German teacher turned fashion designer. She has created a collection inspired by Cuba's colours, people, and music; she presented it for the first time in Havana, now she has returned to show it in a *plaza* in the neighbourhood where it all began: El Raval.

Loud, upbeat Cuban music struck up as the first models hit the runway. They wore tops, pants, dresses, shorts in floral and nature-inspired fabrics in bright tones of red, orange, green, and turquoise, along with flower bracelets, shell necklaces and earrings, seed belts, high heeled pumps and sandals. Her collection highlights designs with lots of movement, evoking female grace.

I headed back to Fabrica Moritz for MerkaFAD, where you can buy any of the creations from the ModaFAD shows. The space was packed with stands representing students from some of Barcelona's major fashion design schools. A wonderful opportunity to meet the latest generation of fashion designers.

And next week we have the Circuit fashion show!



Models showing off the Dirk Bikkemberg collection at Barcelona football club's Nou Camp / JOAQUIM PUIG

A winning collection

M.W.
● What a crowd there was outside Barça's Nou Camp — but not for a football match! We had come to see Dirk Bikkemberg's latest creations.

The men's collection started with charcoal grey satin suits and shiny, pointed silver shoes, followed by stylish track suits, white suits and yellow, red, and black leather jackets over jeans. But what really got the audience going was when a few models came out shirtless in tight white trousers and hugely oversized leather gym bags; these were not the typical emaciated, androgynous models, but fit athletic men. A nice change.

The women's collection featured an updated, feminine version of the trenchcoat in turquoise and tan, in a light fabric that allowed free movement, accompanied by high platform sandals, multi-layered mini-skirts and ultra feminine gauze-like patterned skirts with stiff military style jackets that made a lovely contrast.

I have three complaints: firstly, the models rushed by so fast that it was hard to appreciate each piece; secondly, where were the promised Barça players? And thirdly, Dirk didn't show up — a disappointing end to an interesting event.

M. Wendlinger | www.one2onefashion.com



A dress by the Catalan designer Josep Font at the Pasarela Gaudí / EFE

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