

STYLE



**QUOTED**  
**"Of course I have cellulite — doesn't everybody? I have two lumps on the side of my legs that I call Renee and Liam."**

RACHEL HUNTER, ON NAMING HER SADDLE BAGS AFTER HER CHILDREN, AS TOLD TO BRITISH VOGUE



**WHAT A GUY WANTS**

According to Fashion Week Daily, coveted men's items by the industry's taste makers include: Marc Ecko cashmere graphic sweaters popular with the editors of Men's Fitness, Cargo and Stuff magazine; Ben Sherman skinny suits, favored by GQ Creative Director of Fashion Jim Moore; and Trovata Vans, which will be the hot new item for fall, according to Simon Doonan, creative director of Barneys New York.

METRO

EDITED BY HITHA PRABHAKAR  
 hitha.prabhakar@metro.us

# Arab-American looks unveiled

Designers show off fashions in which Eastern culture meets Western style

**FROM FLIPPANTLY** funky urban wear to Islamic chic and Middle Eastern-inspired elegant evening and bridal gowns, a group of Arab-American designers unveiled new fashion and jewelry lines that challenge Arab stereotypes and reflect the spirit of a community with a foot in two worlds.

The event, organized by the New York chapter of the national Network of Arab-American Professionals, offered participants a welcome escape from the quicksand of Middle East politics that, according to Arab-Americans, fuels the one-sided image of the region as singularly violent.

**Eastern influence**

Instead, the show highlighted the artistic contributions and influence of Arab, Islamic and Eastern culture on mainstream Western fashions. The audience had the added treat of folkloric dance recitals and displays of the Arab and Bedouin clothes that inspired the night's lineup.

"The influence of the East is all over the place," says Yomna Nasser, a 24-year-

**"Everything we see now in fashion is embellished and embroidered, drawing on Arab and Indian creative energy with the sequins and ornate patterns."**

DINA MEKAWI, ORGANIZER OF ARAB-AMERICAN FASHION SHOW



**THIS T-SHIRT**, displayed at the Arab-American Fashion Show, can be purchased at [www.rotemgear.com](http://www.rotemgear.com).



GETTY IMAGES

**A MODEL WALKS** the runway at the Joseph Abboud Fall 2005 show during the Olympus Fashion Week at Bryant Park last year in New York City.

old New York-born, Egyptian-American NAAP member who organized the show with her childhood friend, Dina Mekawi. "Everything we see now in fashion is embellished and embroidered, drawing on Arab and Indian creative energy with the sequins and ornate patterns."

The designs were distinctly different than those offered by established and award-winning Arab-American designers, such as Joseph Abboud, whose men's designs feature a Mediterranean palate with a clean, masculine cut, or Reem Acra, known for her unique bridal designs.

For the modern, religiously observant

Muslim women, 18-year-old Najina Kasim, a Lebanese-American New Yorker, unveiled a line of clothes featuring colorful hijabs and matching, loose shirts covering the tight jeans with which they were paired.

Najina Kasim, who designed fashions for modern, religiously observant Muslim women, says, "There are so many Muslim women who, when they go shopping, can't find anything appropriate and trendy. The clothes are either too revealing or too dull. I wanted to change that and give Muslim women a look they could be proud of."

TAREK EL-TABLAUWY  
 Associated Press

**WAYUU TAYA FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER**



**MODEL AND ACTRESS Patricia Velasquez** arrives at the third annual fundraising gala for the Wayuu Taya Foundation, wearing Carlos Miele, yesterday at the Tribeca Grand Hotel in New York City.

GETTY IMAGES/FERNANDO LEON

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