

# Glitz and glamour sweeps the boards at Fashion Week

## Irish designers embrace Hollywood style

**Kathleen O'Callaghan**

TWO of Ireland's leading designers Aideen Bodkin and Deborah Veale wowed the catwalk at the second fashion show for Dublin Fashion Week. Both designers concurred on three key elements for the autumn - high waistbands, wide legs trousers and narrow pencil skirts.

Deborah's luxurious take on a winter wonderland floated down the catwalk with an air of confidence. A chocolate batwing top in silk jersey was teamed with a high waisted pencil skirt and this was followed by a feline black velvet dress with cream sequinned embroidery.

Deborah's collection which is available throughout Ireland includes exotic jewel shades like the red embroidered top in chiffon worn with a funky snakeskin skirt and ultra chic shoes and bags.

A fabulous jade silk satin empire line dress for €365 swanned along the ramp waiting to be snapped up for a black tie evening.

Aideen Bodkin's sleek silhouettes and sharp tailoring captured the mood of the Forties glamour with hourglass jackets nipped in at the waists along with highwaisted trousers in tweed. The emphasis is on the waistline which is elongated with corsetry and empire line blouses.

Aideen's lace dresses in gold and teal shades are reminiscent of the Kate Moss rock-frock and are accessorised with wide black leather belts and boots.

Aideen's oversized plaid coats in chunky jacquard fabric will



Floaty fabrics were the order of the evening, with Deborah Veale's silk chiffon evening dress (above left) echoing Aideen Bodkin's silk organza cocktail dress (above right) GARETH CHANEY

provide perfect designer camouflage for winter. Some of these future heirloom pieces are hand painted and embroidered with distinctive twists and swirls.

Both designers also granted the audience a sneak preview of the spring/summer collections too. Aideen's array of exotic silk

satin dresses come with a smattering of semi precious stones for romantic evenings.

Crushed satins in metallic shades and pink shift dresses with floral sashes defines the glamour destined for 2008. No more smock alley looks - the aristocrat is back with high

street glamour.

Deborah is also in accordance here baby pink chantilly lace trim shift dresses, silver threaded silk jackets and gold lurex skirts. Think frilly frock blouses, shimmering beads and an orgy of organza for a celebration of the femininity.



Allison Canavan models a flowing dress by Deborah Veale yesterday MARK STEDMAN/PHOTOCALL IRELAND