

# The Coat Check

**T**HIS SEASON IT'S A FUR FOR ALL! The fur frenzy launched last spring during the fall fashion shows. That's when the luxe puff stuff received complete head-to-toe coverage both here and abroad. From New York to London, then in Milan and on to Paris, five hundred plus designers prominently placed fur in the spotlight while presenting their runway collections.

Along with iconic Karl Lagerfeld and his "Haute Fourrure" all fur fashion presentation for Fendi during the Paris Couture Shows, key fur innovators included: Michael Kors, Zac Posen, Norman Ambrose, Helen Yarmak, Monique Lhuillier, and Carolina Herrera—to name drop just a few fashionista faves. And now, in-store it's time for you to find gorgeous fur coats, stylish outerwear, and accessories galore all adorned (and sure to be adored) with fur—hats, scarves, handbags, key chains, even furry boots. Discover the looks you'll love to wear everywhere when temps head south this winter.

## LADYLIKE



PHOTOS: MICHAEL DAR PHOTOGRAPHY

*Bottom left: Norman Ambrose Natural Russian Barguzin Sable Trimmed Brocade Evening Coat, Handcarved Rosewood and Brass Handbag.*

Make the Grand Entrance (or exit) in this exquisite piece created by Norman Ambrose. While he's San Francisco born and now New York based, Ambrose does boast a Chicago connection as the 2008 Gold Coast Fashion Award winner. Known for his use of extraordinary materials and couture statement style, Ambrose's creations elevate an occasion to very special indeed. Here, with personal attention to detail, Ambrose paired hand loomed silk brocade with the featherweight texture of the world's finest sable. The silhouette offers flattering comfort and is sure to garner gazes as you arrive or depart formal functions—think Chicago's Lyric Opera, the Symphony, or the annual fundraiser for Barrington Children's Charities.

## TRAVEL LITE



*Italian Designed Artic White Water-Repellent Micro Down Quilted Field Jacket, Leather Backpack. Designed by Modalu.*

For the world traveler, cooler clime trekker, work commuter, or suburban mom on the go, this is a perfectly practical wardrobe must-have! Don't let the light weight and slim cut fool you; this micro down jacket offers a hardy durability and the means to efficiently utilize your own body heat to ensure warmth on a cold day. When rainy or slushy, the patterned outer shell and baffled construction keeps you nice and dry and prevents the down from absorbing water (which means no feather clumping or odor). Best of all, this field jacket conveniently compresses to a packable size that easily fits into your Modalu backpack. Choose from arctic white, denim, tangerine, midnight, or chocolate for heading across town, the continent or the globe.

## INVESTMENT PIECE



*Cocoa dyed Lamb Leather Zip-up Vest. Made in the U.S.A.*

Men in Leather . . . the mind conjures up vivid imagery of Hollywood's leading men and the wardrobe item that made them style icons. Bad boy,

rebel, explorer or spy—famous roles featuring leather jackets include: Biker Style—“The Wild One” with Marlon Brando as Johnny Strabler, and “Easy Rider” with Peter Fonda as Wyatt; Bomber Jacket—Harrison Ford as the adventuresome Dr. Indiana Jones dons a well-worn leather jacket; Baseball style—Daniel Craig’s sleek, less formal James Bond look in Casino Royale; and in “Top Gun” Tom Cruise’s character, Maverick, takes to the skies and the streets in his aviator jacket. Local leading men, garner your own masculine swagger in a stylish leather vest, blazer, jacket, or car coat.

### BLUSHING BEAUTY



*Helen Yarmak Designed Blush dyed Knit Feathered Raccoon Walking Coat, Swarovski@Crystal Embellished Evening Bag.*

At first blush, this light hue reads soft, delicate, girly and oh-so-romantic. When award-winning Russian designer Helen Yarmak incorporates this pretty pastel into her fur collection you must take another look. Especially when stars like J. Lo, Rihanna, Lady Gaga, and Beyoncé hit the red carpet or grace the covers of fashion magazines

wearing Yarmak designs. Then, Blush becomes “Not that Innocent!” Utilizing innovative techniques—sheared, sculpted, grooved, feathered, or knit (as shown) combined with artistic finishing touches—sparkly embellishments, hand painting, or distinctive trims and hardware makes a Yarmak design the perfect choice for taking your turn in the spotlight.



*Monique Lhuillier Designed Natural Silver Fox and Ranch Mink Walking Coat, York Signature Style Ranch Mink Envelope Clutch, Peach Carr Designed Cocktail Dress*

### MIX IT UP

This season, designers opted for “The Combo” in their fur collections! Discover FUNctional fashions featuring splendid pairings of sheared and long hair furs; fur trims on leather, cashmere or shearling; and any combination of materials—silk, wool, or down—infused in fur or vice versa. Los Angeles based designer, Monique Lhuillier, well-known for her sophisticated couture bridal and evening gowns, has added furs and shearlings

to her namesake company (she and hubby Tom Bugbee are still at the helm). This versatile look is a wardrobe workhorse for day or night wear. Pair with jeans for casual luxe or toss it on with a turtleneck, skirt, and tall boots for the annual luncheon fashion show hosted by Barrington Junior Women’s Club. Or, simply slip it over a Peach Carr designed cocktail dress for elegant evening glam. One fur coat—many ways to style it!



### THE WRAP-UP

As fall turns to winter with accompanying plummeting temps, no need to sacrifice style to stay warm. Designers have created an inspired plethora of plush pelts, sporty fine outerwear—that’s cashmeres, shearlings, skiwear, and leather along with all manner of furry accoutrements for uber cold protection and chic street style. Must-have fur accessories include: super trooper hats, fox or mink detachable snap cuffs, tote-ally awesome furry handbags with fuzzy purse charms, and fur scarves in an array of colors, styles and fur types. This season, for little essentials to beautiful coats, you just need to Go FUR it! 🐾

*Kathy Rezny is the former president of the Associated Fur Industries of Chicagoland; Executive Board Member for the Fur Information Council of America; and Co-owner of York Furrier, Inc., located in the Elmhurst City Centre and the Deer Park Town Center. Learn more at [www.YorkFur.com](http://www.YorkFur.com).*