

A World Gone Plaid

Tartans Are Everywhere for Spring



Checking In: Yeohlee's plaid sarong

Photo: Courtesy of Yeohlee

December 15, 2005 – If you think decking the halls involves copious amounts of plaid, wait until spring. Leading the battalion of designers who took those familiar checks in unexpected directions was Comme des Garçons' Rei Kawakubo, who blanketed her runway with punkish tartans. Junya Watanabe followed suit, while Alexandre Herchcovitch paired the pattern with trippy psychedelic florals. The approach was more muted at Preen, where Justin Thornton and Thea Bregazzi transformed the archetypal man's flannel shirt into drapey separates. Elsewhere, Roland Mouret showed feminine, fitted dresses in graphic black-and-white, and his fellow Brit Julien Macdonald rendered his plaids in froufrou silk taffeta rather than traditional wool. "I love the juxtaposition of the pattern and the fabric. It's flirtatious and dramatic," he enthused. In other words, just the thing for Christmas in July.

–Laird Borrelli