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July 24, 2008 5:32 PM

TREND WATCH

Hard Casual: Nicholas K Spring/Summer 2009

By *Jason Wilson*



Tuesday, **Nicholas K** presented a fastener-friendly collection of casual looks with a hard edge. Outerwear is definitely the designer 's strong suit, as the jackets and ponchos shown on the runway proved in their unconventional, yet mature varieties. Sky-blue nylon and orange-twill coattails billowed behind the models stalked and jackets were cut short and wrapped around with belted ties.

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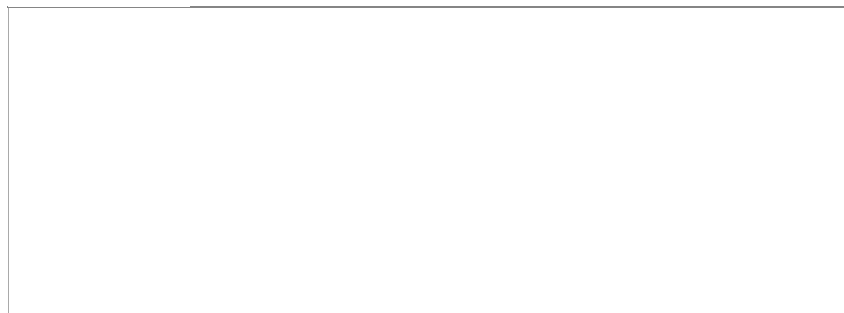
A nylon patchwork coat stood out and a shimmery windbreaker riveted with fasteners added a tinge of punk to this generally adult collection. Off-center zippers and closures spruced up the designer's other strong suit—knitwear. A black-and-brown marble-cotton-and-linen blend sweater stood out as did a striped zig-zag double-breasted sweater. As an interesting nod to the conventional, most of the aforementioned billowing and fastened garments were layered over more traditional button ups, T-shirts and slacks. Overall, the collection appeared as an attempt to bully around the typical workaday wardrobe—so the results were bound to be mixed whatever the talents of the creators. Still, the corporate bosses can't fire you for wearing a jacket, can they?

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