

Weird or wonderful—

Paris Fashion Week 2014 celebrated a bit of both. Here's a sneak peek of the bizarre and the beautiful

Serkan Cura

Belgian designer Serkan Cura, who trained in the atelier of Jean Paul Gaultier, liberally used feathers, tiny bustiers and nude-coloured corsets, but maintained a sexy silhouette with pinched waists—often the order of the day. Models strutted the ramp in black and white gowns festooned with feathers, reminiscent of the days of Marlene Dietrich and Rita Hayworth. Contemporary trends also featured in the line-up, with sizzling bustiers and a micro-mini dress in silver reminiscent of Paco Rabanne's metal dresses that were emblematic of the Swinging Sixties.



Jean Paul Gaultier

The highlight of his show was the rocker jacket, Diamond Rocker, enriched with the latest crystal innovations, crystal spikes and studs.

The latest version of this classic garment features exclusive use of Swarovski's newest crystal innovation, crystal

spikes and studs, inspired by the

Chanel

One of the highlights of this season was Chanel's airy look for the Spring-Summer 2014 collection with models sporting tennis shoes and pastel shades. But no ordinary tennis shoes would do for head designer Karl Lagerfeld, who commissioned bootmaker Massaro, a century-old fashion house to create this line of footwear.



Choose Your Tile

From heritage designs to cutting-edge materials — you'll be spoilt for choice with these bespoke tiles, says **Shurti Arora**

Lusting for Leather
Add a touch of aristocracy and elegance to your décor with some help from My Tailor Home, a bespoke specialist studio, in Mumbai, which offers a range of leather tiles in varied colours, textures and shapes, by French creator and manufacturer Cuir au Carré. From full-grain calf to genuine buffalo leather, the skin for each tile is carefully selected, cut, and sheathed on a foam panel. "They work perfectly as an accent piece for living rooms, libraries, doors or headboards. All you need to do is be imaginative and playful," says Isabelle Vernhes, Co-founder, My Tailor Home. FCML, a Delhi design studio by Abhinav Khandelwar, now in Mumbai, also has a range of leather tiles to die-for.

The Heritage Walk
That beautiful antique you bought, at the last auction you attended, deserves the right setting, and nothing will go better with it than a heritage-inspired floor! If you are looking for tiles from an era gone by, consider Bharat Flooring, the heritage tile specialists. Designed for those with eclectic taste, these cement tiles are hand-crafted from the finest, carefully selected elements, and are aesthetically blended to create a high quality tile in rich and glowing colours. "The timeless elegance and durability of these tiles make them works of art and an invaluable part of the country's architectural heritage," says Firdaus Variava, (Director, Sales & Marketing) Bharat Flooring.

Way to Inlay!
Just like embroidery is to fabric, inlay is to marble. You can choose between materials, patterns and designs to create something that's not just bespoke, but overwhelmingly creative. While you might not find skilled labour like Shah Jahan did to create those outstanding inlays for the Taj Mahal, Nitco's mosaic division has some stunning designs to offer. A crafty way to blend traditional art and modern technology, inlays will be a masterful way to add a regal touch to your spaces.

Mysterious Mosaics
Just like little droplets of water shining in the sun, glass mosaics offer a lovely play of light and add a twinkle to décor. If you want to be mesmerised by the beauty of mosaic, check out the collections of Bisazza or Sici. They let you reflect in the glittering world of mosaic, which has adorned various luxurious properties the world over. You can also opt for marble, stone and tile mosaics created by Nitco's Mosaic division. Opt for a kitschy design, an ornate pattern or a signature mosaic art piece, they have it all! In the words of Ashok Goyal, CEO, Nitco, "Even a modest application of mosaic work can enliven an environment with intricate designs, vibrant colours and rich textural elements."

Wisely Vintage
Plain Italian tiles with vintage motifs are as elegant as they come. Step on these works of art with your lacy, oversized gowns and grand wedding hats. FCML offers these as a part of their FCML One collection that is also called 'Freedom', simply because it offers the opportunity to craft numerous permutations and combinations of the tiles available. The collection includes surfaces with high contrast, historically significant prints and a vintage feel. It also offers various geometric patterns with interesting textures and patchwork that enhance the ambience of your home.

Tile Talk
There is no doubt that bespoke tiles are the ultimate in luxury. But that they do in such a creative manner is overwhelming. As Parushni Aggarwal, Founder and Creative Director, Studio Creo puts it, "The best feature of bespoke tiles is that they allow you to create magic in your spaces with your unique sense of creativity!" However, using bespoke tiles is an art, and needs a lot of attention. "Always make sure that bespoke tiles are in sync with the environment they are used in, in terms of their size in comparison with the wall art or the supportive tiles one is using either on wall or floor. The dimensions of the tiles will vary in accordance with the different looks, required to be in sync with the interiors of the space," adds Aggarwal. So what are we aiming for? Tile on!

My Tailor Home

Tucked away in Mumbai's infamous Shakti Mills lane, My Tailor Home, the 'made-to-measure' atelier founded by Isabelle Vernhes and Philippe Coudray, customizes the work of French artists, craftsmen and brands to suit your space. The high-ceilinged space is filled with treasures. Walls tiled with leather, expertly carved chairs upholstered with contemporary photography, alabaster seats, exquisite crystal- and silver-ware



Herman Miller

Who doesn't recognise the Eames lounge chair and ottoman? These pieces live in museums like MOMA in New York and the Art Institute of Chicago, in stylish interiors around the world, and as tattoos on the arms of devotees. They have been the subject of documentaries and books. The quintessential modern classic set is now available in an expanded range of materials, to suit any interior and every taste.



Remembering Raymond Weil

Raymond Weil, one of the Innovators of the Swiss watch industry, died at the age of 87, on 26th January 2014. Raymond Weil is known to be one of the few watch brands to bear the name of the founder and still operate as a family business. His son-in-law Olivier Bernheim is at the helm and two grandsons Elie and Pierre Bernheim are the chief officers of the company today. "Raymond Weil was a self-made man. He was my mentor and I learned so much from him," says Olivier Bernheim, President & CEO of Raymond Weil. "His legacy and enthusiasm will live on through our family, his Brand, its team over the world and all of those who wear the watch that bears his name." A man with a vision and ambition, Weil was among the first Swiss watch brands to

enter the Indian market in the 90s. Today, Freelancer, Nabucco, Maestro and Jasmine are some of their hottest selling timepieces in India. Weil's preferred watch brand was Patek Philippe; his favourite from the Raymond Weil collection was Freelancer, which was created by his grandsons as a tribute to the brand's independent state of mind. Recalling her first visit to Basel, where she met Weil, luxury consultant Anita Khatri says, "It was a moment of disbelief that I was meeting the owner of the eponymous brand. He was accessible; his humility is unforgettable. He would always ask if we were being taken care of". As a tribute to his remarkable contribution to the watchmaking industry, the company now plans to create a special watch in his memory.