



From the beginning of the first look to the close, I felt like I was in flash back mode, as if I had seen this collection before. But like a dream you can't quite recall the finer details of it was a bit fuzzy around the edges. Then it came to me: the scalloped edges on some of the jackets and sculptural tops, the wavy edgelines on the trouser/leggings were so derivative of another foursome's design aesthetic. Not that I think this showing was bad: I actually liked a lot of elements about it. I think the glimmers of original design effort I did see were interesting and strong and I was frustrated not to see more of it. Some of the highlights were: a cotton snake blouse with a deep grey jacket and asymmetrical short that was very sculptural and the portrait neckline of the top was really appealing. There was an Edwardian looking chiffon and charmeuse blouse with a deep midnight blazer and capri pant that I loved. I was also taken with the sort of middle eastern inspired tunic dress with skinny trouser in a metallic cotton which looked very smart and versatile. The highlight of the show for me was a Sandstone linen ruffled dress that had an amazing silhouette and moved so beautifully that it was easy to imagine it on a real person. The beauty department put a nice twist to the usual up-do by putting a fine wire mesh cage wrapping over a top knot bun. It was then surrounded by wisps of hair fashioned to look like twigs. The make up was subdued and pretty. Overall I liked the show but wished this obviously talented team's next effort would reflect more of their own view point and less of those they seem to admire. [Kelley Quan]