

Designers add Midas touch to Day 4

DIPTI NEW DELHI
Two couture giants with a global presence, Manish Arora and Gaurav Gupta, presented their eye-teasing creations at the Day 4 of the ongoing India Couture Week. Both the designers managed to keep the audience spellbound with a complete new take on their idea of the Indian Woman. Manish Arora's show was set at an off-site location, the Embassy of France, forcing people to swiftly hop in and out to catch the next show at the regular venue.

Arora, who is known for his use of psychedelic colours and kitsch motifs, successfully managed to intertwine traditional Indian crafts with Western silhouettes. He presented "Kaleidoscope" under his brand *Indian*. "I love Indian tradition and colour and I believe that no other designer can play with so many colours in one garment like the way I do. I believe in telling stories through my designs and this is what my couture line is all about. It is meant for all the powerful women who believe in creating a name for themselves," he said after the show.

He presented six mini collections, titled *The Peacock*, *The Crown*, *The Jewels*, *The Light Fantastic*, *Iridescent* and *Temari*. Luxurious fabrics like velvet, silk dupion, heavy crepe and duchesse satin were spotted. The colour theme varied from maroon, black, emerald green, sea green, powder blue and ivory, in sensuous geometric and abstract patterns.

The designer also showcased out-of-the-box head-gears in different forms, shapes and sizes. Neckpieces in polka, gold, pearl, and variety of coloured stones were also seen. Multicolour stripes, gold rexine embroidery, and 3D effect on bases of bright colours were some of the highlights of his psychedelic show. Arora also managed to get full crowd applause and a standing ovation by the end of the show.

On the other hand, Gaurav Gupta, who has dressed up several celebrities, presented his collection, titled *Wink of Nyx*. Drawing inspiration from the Greek goddess of the night — Nyx, Gaurav's couture was based entirely on characters from nobility and royalty. Gaurav is also known for his obsession with technique-based clothes and his collection included a glamorous line-up of gowns, jackets, gowns

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A model displays a creation by Gaurav Gupta on Friday.
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with capes, fire-dripping sari gowns, calypso lehengas and draped saris styled with unusual jackets. The designer quipped, "I had a vision at the back of my mind wherein I picturised a Greek goddess celebrating power and style. I imagine my woman to be powerful, confident yet very feminine. My perfect woman is soft and powerful at the same time. Hence I've used fabrics which are strong yet flowy like ichtyl tulle, laces, jerseys, phosphorus brocade and much more."

The designer also experimented with the colour palette and went for sanguine reds, whites, golds, bronzes. His showstopper, Bollywood actress Shraddha Kapoor, looked no less than a Greek goddess herself. Clad in a strapless ivory gown with beautiful embellished cape, she mesmerised everyone with her slow walk.



Models display creations by designers Gaurav Gupta (above) and Manish Arora (below) at the India Couture Week in New Delhi on Friday.

— BUNNY SMITH

