



LONDON FASHION WEEK: BURBERRY PRORSUM FALL WINTER 2012

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Always the showman and innovator, Christopher Bailey set out to unveil “Town and Field” the Fall Winter 2012 Collection for Burberry Prorsum. But before I start with the clothes, can I mention it rained? As in theatrical rain machines pouring over Kensington Gardens. Evoking the feeling of the 1940’s the run started with plenty of tweed from the newsboy caps at the tip of the head to the coin purse pockets at cinched waists. There was also a big mix of masculine and feminine because of the sharp contrast of flouncy skirts (full striped mid-length for day and ruffled be it a peplum or a diagonal sash for cocktail hour). The “town and field” bits came in with little details like fox heads on belts, ducks on walking sticks for the gentlemen and cartoonish owls bedazzled on sweaters.

Outwear also played a huge roll in the collection and Bailey never ceases to amaze when it comes to new innovative ways to keep us warm. This time there were a series of cropped waxed cotton parkas, almost like flight jackets that were fun youthful and had the likes of Rosie Huntington-Whiteley and Kate Bosworth grinning from the front row. Said jackets were paired with pencil skirts that had one ruffle starting from the right hip and cascading down the entire length of the piece. For the men the newsboy cap tweed blazer, military referenced parkas for outerwear also anchored the inspiration. There was a beyond sharp olive velvet single-breasted suit. The striped matching gloves and scarves that accompanied the menswear looks added the same type of humor and youth as the owls did for the women. Handbags came in all sorts of shapes and sizes, I am certain making buyers happy with all the options. There wasn’t one “signature bag” this season, but some roomy colorful striped suede and leather totes, mid-sized round leather duffel shaped bags and small clutches that repeated the details of doggies, ducks and owls in gold hardware (totally field) with leather studded driving gloves. The pointy toe sky high-heeled ankle booties looked more field, but would really only function in town. When the finale came under sounds of roaring thunder, rain appeared. A more realistic version of the digital snow that wowed audiences in Beijing the models carried striped umbrellas and trotted under the glitter symbolizing the outside drops that were (thank God!) shielded by glass yet again fusing the technology and reality that Burberry has pioneered in this crazy fast-paced world we call fashion.

