

Fashion

DRESS TO IMPRESS: Jennifer Rothwell's spiral multi-print halter neck dress (€890) is available from No 6 Castlemarket, Devine in Malahide and JuJu in Greystones



As models strutted their stuff in the stylish capitals of Paris and Milan, our own fair city of Dublin showcased the best of Irish homegrown talent, writes Fiona Gratzner



FRESH: Helen Finn's colourful designs; and nudes are in

It might be too early to ditch your winter woollies, but there's still no excuse to follow the fashion sheep this season. Instead, opt for something individual, cool and quirky from one of our very own talented, homegrown Irish designers, and make a fashion statement that's sure to put a spring in your step.

Okay, we're not quite New York, London or Paris, who have the Marc Jacob's, Vivienne Westwood's and Chloe's of the fashion world, but Dublin can hold its coiffured head high, thanks to the talents of some of our bright, young designers who showcased recently at Motorola Dublin Fashion Week.

Established Irish designers such as John Rocha, Quinn and Donnelly and Joanne Hynes rubbed shoulder pads with relative newcomers, such as at Heather Finn and Jennifer Rothwell at last Tuesday night's successful catwalk show.

While the audience relaxed to cool tunes and oodles of bubbly, the models sashayed down

the catwalk in floaty spring fabrics that seemed lighter than air with some designs worthy of any international catwalk show. There were heavier pleated fabrics on display too, as well as bright, bold spring colours and plenty of neutral safari-like colours which are sizzling hot this season.

As spring is all about freshness and brighter days, this season's big fashion look is all about freshness and brighter colours. All you need to do to instantly update your look is to add some fun accessories such as a bright bag, a statement belt, funky shades, peep-toe shoes, or some layered bangles and necklaces. Better still, pile it all on together as this season's look is defiantly not for a shrinking violet.

And as some trends just seem to return each season, you'll probably have a few key pieces already in your wardrobe. Take frocks for instance, which are once again big fashion news for spring - you can opt for a maxi, mini or midi, take



TOP TALENT: John Rocha