

Cutting-edge Carroll

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Today Writer

While most designers are offering soft cuts, Edmonton's Stanley Carroll is once again demonstrating he is anything but mainstream.

The fashion-forward designer has gone hard-edge with much of his fall collection.

It's not that he doesn't pay attention to other designers.

It's just that Carroll doesn't let them rule his creations.

"As you practise your craft longer and longer, you're less willing to compromise your vision to follow the mainstream," says Carroll, who's been designing for about 12 years.

"I see people being more frustrated, harder and a little more impatient.

"And to not reflect that in the clothes would be a shame."

Joining in a fashion show Friday night at CityCentre with local designer Deidre Hackman of Concrete Clothiers, Carroll showed why his "stuff" is such a hit with fashion-forward shoppers.

One dress featured an upside-down pant added to the bottom of its skirt. Here a waistband, zipper and pockets add spunk. Or maybe a skirt that looks like a shirt (complete with sleeves and a collar) is more to your taste?

Knits were everywhere and Carroll's signature skirts for men attracted plenty of attention.

His innovative men's and women's designs are meant to attract the looks.

"We do find we challenge the eye and the mind at times," Carroll admits.

"We're not wardrobe builders as such. It's more for the lady who wants a particular look, or a blouse or suit to give a little spice to her wardrobe."

His men's lines cover a broader base, from high-fashion casual to borderline evening wear.

Despite the modern styling of his work, there is still a timeless appeal.

Hackman's designs stand the test of time as well. She featured uptown fall outfits during the show.

Fringe accents on form-fitting cuts brought back memories of smoky bars and steamy tangos.

Sheer designs, with retro embroidery and scalloped hems, hinted at feminine shapes underneath but had glamorous mystique.

The duo's fall collection presentation was part of THREADZ — A Festival of Fashion and Function.

The event, which runs through Saturday, was created to promote Edmonton's fashion and garment industry.



STANLEY CARROLL