

The New York Times

Front Row

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Spring, Summer, Winter, Fall, Etc.

RICHARD MARTIN, the late fashion curator, anticipated that designers would one day introduce clothes for what he described as “the fifth season. He was not referring to the so-called resort collections that keep designers busy all summer describing to fashion-mad consumers what they should be wearing for the quasi-spring season that arrives in stores quixotically in December.

Rather, Mr. Martin had in mind clothes that could be bought anytime and worn year round, and he was speaking directly to the high-minded designs of Yeohlee Teng, a designer who peruses technical advancements in fabrics the way most people update their iTunes. Ms. Teng, whose label is called Yeohlee, has designed coats that look like igloos and dresses that are made of a complete circle of fabric but fold down to a size that can be tucked into a drawer. She has designed medical uniforms and exhibitions of architecture in Berlin and Rotterdam.



Little Black Riding Hood

From Yeohlee
Teng, a raincoat
with minimalist
appeal

Her latest works will be shown beginning in September at the Museum of Modern Art and at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum — not in the galleries, but in the gift shops.

“The museums are very design driven, so this was like design meeting fashion,” said Ms. Teng, who has worked with the museums on design issues and exhibitions and who dresses the MoMA restaurant staff members in a deal with the restaurant owner Danny Meyer. The Cooper-Hewitt will carry designs from her runway collection, as well as those of the designer Issey Miyake, but for the MoMA Design Stores, Ms. Teng created special items that fall into Mr. Martin’s concept of the fifth season. This may be frightening to some department stores accustomed to doing business four times a year, which is why Ms. Teng is selling them in a museum.

She designed a simple, minimal-looking raincoat for women (\$520) and a windbreaker for men (\$495) made of black matte nylon fused to jersey, a fabric that is pliable and unlikely to wrinkle. “They are ultimately extremely efficient,” Ms. Teng said. “You can wear the jacket over your shirt and under a blazer, and it has a very high breast pocket, which can be extremely useful if you are traveling.” The jackets are lightweight and waterproof, Ms. Teng said, and “the only cleaning you need to do is with a damp cloth.”

All they need is a customer who wants to wear the same thing all year long.