

Fashion MANNUSCRIPT

FROM "PROJECT RUNWAY" TO "CONDO PROJECTS"



Fashion designer turned real estate broker; Lawrence Rich, was a judge at the Fashion Institute of Technology's annual AAS Exhibition for student designs inspired by designer-to-the-stars James Galanos, who was honored at the event.

"The students' designs were amazing," said Rich, former owner of the high-end fashion company Rich & Levy, which once dressed Lana Turner, Oprah and Nancy Reagan.

"It was a thrill to meet Galanos and share a few minutes of fashion talk with the legend I've admired for so long," added Rich, who is now a vice president at Prudential Douglas Elliman.

FIT models wore vintage Galanos creations owned by Douglas Simms of the SIMMS Foundation. Simms, who also attended the event, donated the Galanos originals, owned by his mother back in the 1960s, to the FIT museum. "My mom was Galanos' biggest fan," added Simms.

The FIT event marked the end of a year of hard work for students who, after studying the great fashion designers like Galanos, had to create their own inspired creations. "This night was a celebration of all our students, not just the winners in each class," added Rich.