

Stephin Lalan Unveils Madras Week Collection: Chennai's Landmarks Reimagined as Wearable Art

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Chennai's architectural heritage and cultural soul step onto the runway this Madras Week, thanks to designer **Stephin Lalan's latest collection**, which transforms the city's most iconic landmarks into fashion statements.

From evening strolls in Mylapore to sketch sessions in Adyar, Lalan found inspiration in the city's temples, colonial-era buildings, kolam traditions, and even its bustling streets. The result? A collection that is both **aesthetic and emotional**, offering fashion lovers a chance to literally wear their city with pride.

Threads of Chennai

Highlights include the **Valluvar Kottam shirt**, reflecting the monument's chariot-inspired geometry; the **Kolam shirt**, which immortalises the morning rice-flour art into maroon-and-white embroidery; and the **Napier Bridge shirt**, echoing the chessboard pattern that became symbolic during the 2022 Chess Olympiad.

Resortwear with Soul

For women, a flowing purple crepe silk dress pays homage to the **Theosophical Society's banyan tree**, its hand-knotted embroidery and braided silk threads evoking calm strength and rooted elegance.

Today's Chennai in Motion

Breaking from monuments, the **Signature SL Ruffle Dress** channels the restless energy of the city through bold black-and-white ruffles—capturing the vibrance of tea stalls, markets, and festivals.

Each garment comes with a note explaining its inspiration, making every piece feel like a **wearable love letter to Chennai**.

Speaking about the collection, Stephin said: *"These buildings and traditions tell our story. I wanted to go beyond style—to create clothes that connect with people, reminding them of where they come from and what Chennai means to them."*

With this Madras Week showcase, **Stephin Lalan places Chennai at the crossroads of heritage and modernity, proving that fashion can be more than clothing—it can be culture, memory, and identity.**