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There will surely be no kookier inspiration this season than the one Tommaso Aquilano and Roberto Rimondi found on television one rainy Saturday afternoon. Their menswear collection for Ferré was guided by *The Day of the Jackal*, the 1973 movie featuring Edward Fox as Charles de Gaulle's intended assassin. Scarcely sartoria incarnate, but something about Fox's amoral stylishness caught the boys' attention. The small lapels on the assassin's jacket showed up at Ferré. So did the sailor top he disguised himself in at one point in the film. He also pretended to be a priest—maybe that's where Aquilano and Rimondi's clerical collar came from.

But before their inspiration bore them away on a hiding to nowhere, the designers mercifully inserted their own concerns. We want to be thinner and taller, they decided, so both aspirations were addressed with attenuated tailoring that raised waistlines and elongated silhouettes. As in last season's somewhat blighted offering, there was a distinct emphasis on fabric research, here yielding materials as unusual as rubberized suede and neoprene-ed leather. As accomplished as such fabric technology feats may be, there was more pleasure to be had in the silky woven cotton of a striped navy jacket, or the white denim that was turned into a smoking jacket. One last thing, an envoi for the annals of show notes: I will sleep easier tonight knowing that, somewhere in the Ferré collection, there are such things as "pure and silent guru-shirts."

— Tim Blanks