

Practical, Slim Are Bywords for Milady's Clothes This Easter

Spring Styles Stress Comfort

"Paris this spring has designed clothes that can be worn easily by busy and professional women the world over — and particularly in the United States," reports ace designer Belle Saunders, who has just returned to this country after viewing the top couturier lines in Paris, states that the new silhouette this year is based on wearable and supple lines. She sights examples from the new Jean Desses collection

which stresses soft and wearable tailoring. There were comfortable and easy new armholes, controlled pleating, "mock" tailored suits, coats derived from a man's overcoat and lots of shirtwaist dresses made in a wide variety of fabrics and colors. This is the type of clothes that can be worn by the busy American woman who works harder and plays harder than any other woman in the world.

"After all," states Belle Saunders, "more than half of the working women in the United States are married, and therefore need double-duty clothes. Perhaps that explains why we women in America wear the greatest percentage of clothes in the world, and can count more changes of costumes in our wardrobe than any other group, in any other country." Other examples of functional designs can be found at Jacques Heim. M. Heim has evolved a theme which he terms the Trumpet line. This graceful line is derived from a slightly wider shoulder, soft natural bustline and a long molded beltless body, which achieves height and slimmness of silhouette, breaking at the garterline into either pleats, gathers, tucks, or godets. This dancing line gives an overall slim line but becomes appealingly full at the hemline, allowing for the rapid pace that American women are so accustomed to.

Dior Blouson
Then, of course, there is the new sensation in the fashion world, the Christian Dior Blouson. This is a short jacket which fits in at the waistband, slightly bloused front and back. It vaguely resembles the old Eisenhower jacket. This comfortable short jacket is delightfully teamed with low cut dresses and makes an excellent and wearable daytime through evening ensemble.

Jacques Fath can also be cited as going along with this trend. He has designed a group of exciting fitted suits. Albeit, his suits have been boned just a trifle too much for the freedom loving American woman, but the proper execution and adaptation by American designers can make this slim and sleek silhouette a great favorite this season.

Miss Saunders contends that the Parisian designers have designed an uncluttered, unadorned look for Spring. There has been little or no dependence on trimmings. The fashion story can be told in design, cut and fabric.



Yellow roses etched in black form the background for this spring and summer cotton dress. The yellow roses are traced with the black outlines modern painters taught us to like. Cotton broadcloth is the material with black velvet tufting to point up influence of modern art on teenage clothes.

Reflects Glowing Quality

NEW YORK—New spring fashions show the strong influence of modern art. Cotton prints reflect the glowing quality and flickering light of impressionist painting. Spring sportswear in harlequinade prints might have stepped right from one of Picasso's cubist paintings. The new abstract prints, bold stripes and vivid colors seem to take their cue from painters like Piet Mondrian.

Pointing up these influences, new dresses and sportswear in "paint-box colors" and art-inspired patterns are featured in a national teen-ager magazine against the backgrounds of paintings by Matisse, Mondrian, Picasso and Klee.

An off-the-shoulder cotton dress shown is printed in yellow roses, each outlined in black as modern painters like to do.

In the cubist vein, the magazine selects a flared skirt pierced with gray, gold and white triangles. Domino-printed tapered trousers are topped with a gold jacket that's hooded and lined with the domino print.

The vivid yellows and oranges, sectioned-off in black, of a Mondrian painting, might have inspired a striking haltered outfit of cotton with vertical stripes on the bodice and horizontal ones on the wide skirt.

Leather Leaders Declared Smooth

Goatskin, capeskin and kidskin lead in smooth leather fashions this season because of their fluency, affinity to color and easy-cleaning qualities.

Noteworthy, too, is a new plastic that looks like leather and takes well to new colors and combinations. It can be wiped clean with a damp cloth.

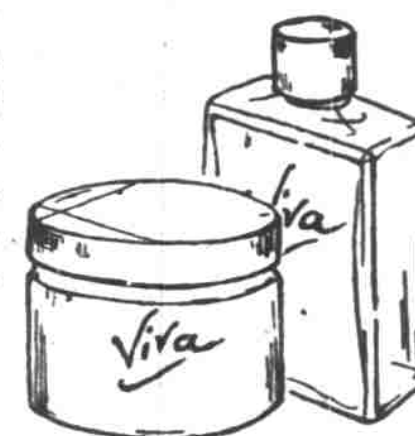
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BY FRANCES DENNEY

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