

Suits Ignore Old Lines for Spring In New Silhouette

Stepping out for spring are the smartest suits in seasons. Designers have by-passed traditional styles, and "borrowed" springs new and excitingly different suit silhouettes from today's uncomplicated, casual fashions.

The suit of the season is the sweater suit. Just as easy-going and comfortable as its name-sake, the slim-line sweater suit sometimes resembles a two-piece dress. Pull-over-inspired tops have a sweater's cardigan, cowl and stove-pipe necklines. Jackets close in back or are front zipped over softly eased skirts.

The shirt suit is relaxed as every woman's favorite blouse and skirt. Tops have convertible collars and shirt sleeves

bloused on cuff. Generally, the jacket is longer, belted low in overblouse fashion, and slung over the skinniest of skirts.

Jaunty Styles

Fashion interprets open-air, or country, casualness in suits with big-city chic. Spring's jaunty, open-air suits have longer jackets (sometimes looking like riding jackets) with a mere suggestion of shape, and easy, mobile skirts with inverted front pleats or gathered waistbands. Open necklines are filled in with scarves or coordinated blouse. Sleeves narrow to the wrist, then flare out in wide cuffs.

Tunic suits have longer, leaner princess and rajah jackets over slimmer skirts. Tunic styling includes lowered "nude" necklines, narrowed setin sleeves and a minimum of detail.

New Chanelisms

Spring's most feminine suits pair demi-fit jackets, that move in-at-front and out-at-back, and soft skirts with panels, pleats and bias cut fullness. The hipline is emphasized by the new "hip-flip" peplum effects, with or without belts.

The Chanel influence is never far from suits, and this spring will bring Chanel-type cardigan jackets and braid trimmings, as well as a new Chanelism—the Norfolk belted suit jacket.

Many of spring's tailored suits have been given a fresh "tomboy" look.

Leaner Lines Seen

The leaner lines of "skinny" suits are emphasized by relaxed waistlines, longer jackets which fit but never confine, and skirts which skim the figure. Sleeves are narrower and often set-in. Collars are smallish and many have high, notched lapels.

Spring's most suitable fabrics are mohairs in featherweight and porous weaves, ribbed silks, diagonal worsteds and tweeds. Many striking plaids and checks stand out.

Suits should have a colorful spring, full of whites, brights and lights sharing fashion honors with classic greys, camels, blacks and navies.

BLENDERS HERE

Blends are the big fabric news—silk and cotton, silk and wool, silk with cashmere, with worsted; worsted and linen, linen and wool and blends of wool, rayon and cotton.



DRESS UP BEDROOM—Fashions to dress up a beautiful bedroom might be a quilted cotton coverlet, in a fresh floral pattern; a solid-color ruffled petticoat; fringed draperies and boudoir chair, plus a head board

imported from Spain and finished in dark, antique walnut. Lazyback pillows, cued to the color scheme, help carry out the decor. Decorating ideas advanced here are suggested by Nettle Creek.

Array of Whites Top Color Chart

The fashion rule for color in spring '63 is "After white, something white!" White from dazzling pure whites through a wide array of creamy whites and off-whites, is far and away the leading color on the spring scene.

White sparkles in suits, captivates in coats, dramatizes dresses, succeeds in separates. There's white in stripes, in checks and plaids, and white looking especially striking in combination with deep tones.

Something Light

After white, the "something light" is provided by a spring-fresh array of ice cream pastels, light beiges and grays. Citrus tones favor lemon and lime, occasionally deepen to orange.

Baby and sky blues, pale pinks and rich blossom pinks, leafy greens carry out the light, lovely look of fashion. New-looking mauves join the pastel parade. Sunny apricot and peach tones get their inspiration from the yellow family.

Whatever the hue, the paler and prettier nature of the new pastels assures spring flattery for feminine complexions.

Often united with white are the bright and deep tones—lively navy, purple royal, vivid reds, burgundies, garnets, emerald greens. Rich browns make news. As for black, it's especially important this spring in contrast with white, including many checks and other black and white prints.

Natural Line Wins High Style Rating

Spring's most fashionable dresses are those that suggest rather than insist on shape.

The new soft mood of fashion is interpreted in dresses, coats and costumes that flow fluidly over the figure, curving close to the body but never clutching or confining it.

Women will like spring's dress styles because they are feminine, flattering and easy to wear.

Comes "Naturally"

Many dresses are doing what comes "naturally" for spring. The new natural dress skirts lightly over the figure, widening slightly at the hemline. It offers the wearer easy elegance, as do spring's flared A-line skimmer styles and shift-shapes that hang straight or are gently sashed.

The tunic-top dress, reflecting "rajah" inspiration, casts a long, lean shadow over spring fashion. Straight or slightly flared skirts emerge from beneath skinnier or shaped tunics in three-quarter or seven-eighths lengths.

Pullover Dress

Spring's pullover-dress combines an overblouse shirt with a slim, flared or pleated skirt.

The most casual of spring's easy-going styles is the slender sweater dress with a V-neckline.

Every woman will want at least one spring ensemble in her closet now that so many of the prettiest dresses come with their own jackets or coats. Spring prints are often

paired with coordinated cover-ups lined with matching print. Other dresses are accompanied by a scarf or stole for the "total look."

The simple shapes of spring's dresses are kept uncluttered by a minimum of soft, lady-like detailing. Necklines may or may not have collars. V-necks, sometimes filled in with scarves, abound as do soft, cowl and draped neckline effects.

Sleeves Are News

Sleeves are a new area of fashion interest for spring. Although there are plenty of sleeveless dresses for women who prefer them, many of the smartest new styles feature cropped sleeves, cuffed shirt sleeves, long skinny sleeves, leg o'mutton sleeves and puffy sleeves.

The wandering waistline is on the move again. For spring, a dress's waist may be where nature intended it to be, lowered, or lifted for a flattering high-waisted effect.

Dress skirts, whether full, shaped or slim, carry out spring's theme of soft mobility.

The color range of spring's dresses goes all the way from smarter-than-ever black and navy to mouth-watering pale and pretty pastels. Spring will see many, many white, off-white and cream colors.

LOOKING AT SPRING

Spring fashion looks two ways, with the look of soft femininity in the lead. Smart alternative is the "tailleur look," in crisp fabrics.

Silvery Grays for Men Preferred on New Fashion Scene

A major fashion trend is in the making, reports the American Institute of Men's and Boys' Wear. For close to 10 years, men's suits—regardless of models—have been dominated by dark colors. Starting with blacks and navy blues, they rarely got as light as what might be described as brighter than medium tones.

However, for one of those inexplicable reasons that turn unpopular greens into much-wanted olives or cause college men to dress like cowpokes, style leaders herald this year as the year they are going to brighten up their wardrobes with light silvery grays.

Sharkskins Favored

The most-wanted light grays will be in smooth, sleek sharkskins. Some of them will be in the plain classics, others will have neat glen plaids, and still others will have nail-head patterns and fine checks. Medium shades, light-mediums, dark-mediums and darks are not dead by a long shot, but the fashion philosophy is that instead of relying solely on the deep darks, men should again take advantage of the lift offered by refreshing lights.

As far as models are concerned, suit interest for the spring of '63 will be heightened by natural-shoulder and tailored treatments of the new two-button model and a trimly tailored one-button style with restrained details. It has a slightly fitted waist and is one of the few current styles made without vents. It's a good warm weather model, smart but not sharp.

In fabrics, the choice is as wide as ever. For spring, there is a handsome collection of midweights. These are lighter than regular weights

but not as light as tropicals. When the warm weather sets in, tropical weights in pure worsteds, featherweight polyester-worsted blends, and wash-wear fabrics of cottons and cotton blends round out the picture.

Fabrics Are Important

Silks and silk blends, and mohairs and mohair blends also hold an important place in the spring-summer scene. These are the dressy "special occasion" suits whose lustrous sets them apart from a fellow work-a-day outfits.

In all suits, look for modest, restrained patternings ranging from solid colors to stripes, checks, plaids and self-weaves. But, these too find complementary companions in some bolder effects to add the spice of variety to a fellow's warm weather wardrobe.

All of this fashion information leads to a rather obvious conclusion: a well-planned wardrobe is not all dark, not all light, not all plain, not all fancy. Neither is it all one fabric or another. It is, however, a blend of these factors—to reap the benefits of each—for each has its particular virtues.



NAUTICAL LOOK—Nautical look of spring goes to town in a sleeveless, relaxed double knit shift with sailor collar and loosely-tied scarf. By Mia.

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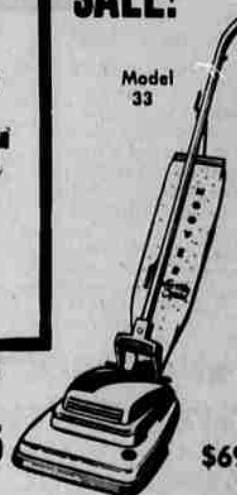


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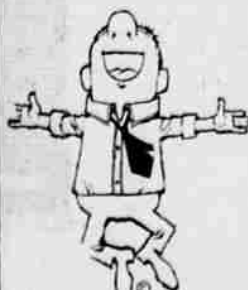


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SPRING CHECKS—The coat checks in for spring, in a variety of silhouettes. This black and white checked wool coat is highlighted by a convertible notched collar, three-quarter length sleeves and cuffed pockets. Photo from New York Coat and Suit Association.

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