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The tradition of innkeeping goes way back in our history. The local inn or tavern was the meeting place for most of the region's social and political events. At such, people met to exchange news, discuss their problems, conduct business, and especially to enjoy the company of friends.

While playing a significant part in the American heritage, Inns have always been representative of their time and place. Whether it be a grand New England tavern or Wild West stagecoach stop, visitors were assured comfort and conviviality.

It is in this great tradition of a regional center serving as a gathering place that the Somerset Inn was established.



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Somerset Inn. Where great traditions continue.



Strong prints in great shapes are part of the Sibley-Coffee collection. (Staff photos by Tracy Baker)

Collection helps wardrobes work

By CHRISTINE WALDEN

As Allison Utach put it, the Sibley-Coffee collection is for the woman who's beyond ready-to-wear fashion but can't afford an \$800 Chanel.

"These are chic, young designs," said Ms. Utach, Sibley-Coffee representative and recently at Saks Fifth Avenue with the spring collection.

"They are sexy, clingy, very feminine things. And I must say, men love them."

So do women. "They're terrific," said one woman while mulling over collection styles and price tags.

Her sentiments echo about 1,500 other women who recently voted the Gold Cost Award to the Sibley-Coffee design team. Twenty other designers were up for the award, including such notables as Bill Blass and Calvin Klein.

The award is voted on not by women in the fashion industry, but by women who buy the clothes.

THE COLLECTION, comprised of components and simple suits, is basi-

cally classic. There are few frills or glitzy designs and fabrics are real.

According to Ms. Utach, the fabric story the Sibley-Coffee team tell is their most famous. "They are mostly known for their use of real fabrics," she said.

Silks, crepe du chine, wool jersey and cashmere make up most of the collection. There is also matte jersey and chafon sprinkled throughout. One caftan, long and classically styled with stand-up collar, long sleeves and slim lines is done entirely in cashmere.

However, two particular pieces are, according to Ms. Utach, selling like hotcakes. One is a wool jersey jumpsuit, short sleeved and belted. The other is a matte jersey gown edged with one single ruffle.

Each piece, as is the rest of the collection, is very simple.

Other garments are not only aesthetically pleasing but for those who want it, practical.

For example, a pair of matte jersey pants go a long way with a variety of tops the design team has created. One is a chinese-styled orange and pink and frog closed jacket shown with black matte pants.

Another was a flowery print tunic, which can be worn either as a dress or over pants.

An apple blossom print in subtle shades of beige and pink was designed in a long tunic shape with a matching (if you want it) below the knee coat tunic, which also can be paired with pants.

THERE IS also a series of two-toned dresses in bright matte jersey colors, available short, long, with long or short sleeves.

The choice in lengths and sleeve adaptations shows a concern for women with figure problems, who may like a style or color combination but can't wear short sleeves.

BY DAY WOOL jersey constitutes the bulk of the collection in simple suits with cardigan-styled jackets, pleated skirts and understated blouses. One is in the 1976 theme with red jacket, white skirt and blue and white star-printed lining.

One of the best pieces in the daytime line is a cap-sleeved, belted and very simple dress which offers sophistication without being snobby.

Sibley-Coffee have been together for 18 years, designing the classics on which customers have come to rely. "It's a very successful marriage of the minds," said Ms. Utach. "They both think young and have great taste."



Two tunics combine for one look in this apple blossom print gown and coat.

Fashion Calendar

Jan. 18-20—Informal modeling of the Ernst Strass collection at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Mall

Jan. 20—Personal appearance by Barbara Dulian with her spring collection at Claire Pearene, Somerset Mall

Jan. 21-22—Informal modeling of the Pat Sandler collection at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Mall

Jan. 23—Informal modeling of the Rickallah collection at Himelhoch's, Birmingham

Jan. 31—Jacobson's presents its bridal collection at the Community House in Birmingham

Jan. 28-Feb. 7—Informal modeling of Estee Lauder Cosmetics at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Mall

CLUB SHOWS

Feb. 10—The Daughters of Vartan will have a luncheon and fashion show by Himelhoch's at noon at St. John Ar-

menian Church Cultural Center, 2201 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. Call Mrs. Mardig Hatcherian at 353-6823 for reservations

LUNCHEON SHOWS

Tuesdays—Informal modeling by Alvin's at Cooper's Arms Restaurant in Rochester

Tuesdays—Informal modeling by Boulevard Fashion Salon at the Altium, Telegraph north of Twelve Mile Road

Wednesdays—Informal modeling by Alvin's at the Troy Hilton Haymarket, Troy

Wednesdays—Informal modeling by Towers East at the Michigan Inn, Southfield

Fridays—Informal modeling by Alvin's at Bedell's, Bloomfield Hills

For consideration of listings write: Fashion Calendar, 1225 Bowers, Birmingham, 48012.

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