



Mindy Aronwits goes romantic in paisley flower cotton dress that can be worn off the shoulder, by a waterfall at Quanton Lake. (Staff photos by Tracy Baker)



Norma Drimba shows controlled caftan in bamboo flower and stripe, standing outside Birmingham's Municipal Building.

Happy dressing in Thai prints

By ETHEL SIMMONS

Hand-screened fabrics from Bangkok, Thailand, plus the flair of French fashion designer Jean-Noel Hato make up the Design Thai Collection.

Norma Drimba of Design Thai brought the new summer funwear to Himehoch's in Birmingham for a recent trunk showing.

The fabulous, brightly colored prints are used to create an exciting array of elegant yet informal separates and dresses.

Ramboo Flower and Stripe, Moroccan Paisley are some of the exotic names for these patterns. All are in 100 per cent cotton, the traditional summer cooler. Fabrics are batiste, sheerest scarf batiste and poplin.

A controlled caftan is combined with harem pants. A poncho top also goes over harem pants. A quilted, real patchwork jacket can be worn with everything from silk pants to jeans.

BICYCLE PANTS tie around the ankle. A matching print tunic can dress up the pants. Most of the tops in the collection double as dresses.

For a young look, a handkerchief skirt complements a madril top. Another outfit features a sarong side wrap skirt, top with side tie, and little nothing bikini underneath.

A summer cocktail dress has a high-waisted effect and kabuki sleeve. Equally romantic is a long dress with ruffled hem and peasant top worn on or off the shoulder.

More conservative patterns include a window-pane plaid or polka dots. A top with apron effect is worn over a blouse and can be paired with a skirt or pants. A polka dotted some in reverse pattern.

Besides the clothes, there are marvelous accessories in the Thai prints. These include a visor hat, cloche, matching tote plastic-lined large tote, Chanel-style chain bag and scarves.

Fallouts from past collections—scraps—go to make a ton of stuffed animals for children and adult collectors.

PRICES RANGE from accessories starting at \$12 up to \$160.

There are regular shirt dresses in the collection, but even these have quilted pockets and extra stitching for a special Far Eastern touch.

Five girls work on the prints at Bangkok. Designer Hato works with them, creating the samples. This is Design Thai's fifth collection, available in sizes 8 to 16. Styles flow and have lots of ease but are all shipped with optional belts.

If you want to be the life of the party, or luxuriate quietly at home, Design Thai knows how.

a la mode



I'm lending myself to bold impressions in a geometric print that matches my splashy fascination. A belted tunic suit and a jacket to cover up in. My bright prospects for summer. Skirted swimsuit with keyhole neckline, nylon-spandex, for 8 to 16 sizes, \$40. Long-sleeved jacket with pocket, polyester-cotton for small, medium and large sizes, \$30. Both in a brown and white geometric print, exclusively at S.F.A.

I'll meet Anne Cole and take in her new, geometrically-inclined swimwear.

Informal modeling, Thursday, May 13, from 11 to 4.
Tie-shoulder maillots, tie-front boylegs, long wrap skirts and solid jumpsuits. Everything a sun-lover could ask for! Sand & Sea Shop.

Doing my geometry in the sun.
One of the pleasures of summer
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Mindy wears Moroccan paisley poncho in scarf batiste, harem pants in regular batiste, beside a tree near Baldwin Library.

Renfrews celebrate

Former Birmingham mayor Charles W. Renfrew and Mrs. Renfrew celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at several parties last week.

The Renfrews were honored Friday night at a reception for 100 guests at the Birmingham Athletic Club. Our daughter, Robin, invited many old friends. Mrs. Renfrew said.

The night before, a family dinner was held at the Renfrews, and the following evening another dinner at Robin's (Mrs. Frederick Bahr of Birmingham).

Our anniversary is actually in June, Mrs. Renfrew said, but two of our four children who live in California were both planning to be in Birmingham the same week and so we decided to celebrate early.

All four Renfrew children were present for the anniversary parties. Attending were:

Judge and Mrs. Charles B. Renfrew of San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. William F. Renfrew of Lansing and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bruce Renfrew of Palo Alto, Calif., in addition to the Fred Bahr.

Charles Renfrew served three terms as Birmingham's mayor and also served 14 years on the Birmingham City Commission.

Said Mrs. Renfrew of their 50th anniversary, "It's a great occasion and celebrating a month early is just a pleasure."

B. Siegel

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