

Cozy up to a fashion fur

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Whoever said diamonds are a girl's best friend didn't live through the Michigan winter of last year.

Those of us who did are taking a harder look at the great array of fur fashions available to fill every need. Whether you're the practical type who wants warmth and wear out of a winter garment or a high fashion aficionado, there's a fur for you.

In general, fur prices are up, according to Arthur Bricker of Furs by Bricker in Oak Park. But if your furrier bought well, you can get the garment you want at a price that's in the ball park.

Fur styles like any others do change and you'll find some new lines and touches on the racks.

"We've gone from full robe type coats to shaped coats," said George

Tunis the designing partner in the Bricker firm.

"There are new arm-hole treatments this year and the trims are very special," he said.

Brickers recently showed their 1977-78 line in a spectacular week of fashion showings called "Champagne and Mink" at the Oak Park store.

TWICE A DAY for a full business week, more than 100 fur garments were shown to the tune of disco music and with the high steps of silver lame clad models.

Several of the designs are so special, they could not be photographed, like the muskrat and tweed greatcoat done in wide diagonal stripes. It has its own scarf-to-make-a-turban, the new bulky look of fashion and the virtue of being wearable anywhere.



Even the men get into the fur act these days and Brickers showed how with a coat in otter with a natural racoon collar and eight buttons.

Mink is still the fur of most women's dreams and may be had in shades from palest white to the popular dark hues of recent years. Variations on the theme come when mink is worked into stripes and trims and most exotic is the new spotted Finn Jaguar mink which took 15 years to perfect.

There really is something new under the sun in furs if you count the

spotted mink and add to it chinchilla now bred to a warm beige and taupe color. Even if you can't wear gray, you can now wear chinchilla.

Another innovation is sabelle mink, a variety bred to look like luxurious sable. One Bricker version is reversible to ultra-suede.

Fur fashion like fashion-at-large is flirting with the blouson, with more bulk and layers, and with scarves and shawls. More and more women think in terms of a fur wardrobe rather than a fur coat.



Designer George Tunis combines exotic Finn jaguar mink with Greenland fox in a one-of-a-kind jacket that's a dream come true for a woman like Carmen West of Southfield.



Southfielder Susan Milich knows that gray days are over if you fancy chinchilla. (Above) She models a mutation chinchilla in soft beige and taupe horizontally worked in a cape-jacket. (At right) Susan wears a wheat mink jacket with striped scarf. Both are by Furs by Bricker. (Staff photos by Gary Friedman)



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Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

It's a corker

Here's the definitive gift for the chocaholics in your life! Sydney Bogg molds hand-dipped chocolate into the actual shape of a champagne bottle, cork and all. The hollow bottom is filled with foil-wrapped liquid cherry cordial candies; the neck and top of the bottle are solid chocolate and the whole thing is wrapped and tied with a bow (\$5.95). The store will custom make the bottle with any kind of candy you choose. Better yet, they will fill it (at no extra charge) with any item that will fit, such as an engagement ring, cuff links or what have you. One week's advance notice is requested for special orders. Sydney Bogg Chocolates, 3500 W. Maple, Birmingham, 646-0344.

Vested interest

Now that the North Woods look has become high fashion as well as downright warm and practical, you'll probably want to wear your down-filled vest wherever you go. If that's the case, the vests at Silverman's really fit the bill. Constructed of Prime Down, insulated and water repellent, the shells and linings are 100 per cent nylon. Best of all, each vest folds into an eight by 12 inch nylon bag for travel ease. In stock in royal blue or orange and in sizes 36 to 44, the vests are priced at \$35 each. Silverman's Men's Wear, Twelve Oaks Mall, Novi, 348-1560, and Northland, Southfield, 557-9446.

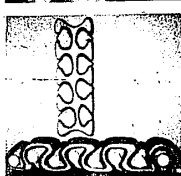
Spicing it up

It's about time! Now that kitchens are being updated right and left to reflect the best in modern design, a spice rack has been created to follow suit. Made by Jonathan McKay from beautifully grained and stained wood, two styles are available. The 24 1/2-inch ribbon rack costs \$65. The 15-inch high standing rack costs \$62. Either style can sit on your counter or hang on the wall and they each contain eight marvelous cork-topped, irregularly-shaped spice holders. 3 For the Show, 233 N. Woodward, Birmingham, 644-3433.

Knots to be

If you've been reading Vogue and Harper's Bazaar, you know that the trend setters have come up with yet another way to wear a scarf this year. The "in" look is to knot a small scarf around the turtle neck of your sweaters. These scarves from the RB shops are ideal for that purpose. Available in six yummy colors, each 100 per cent polyester scarf features a satin finish border, plus an embroidered scrollwork initial. At \$4 each, the price is right too.

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