

# Fashions for the new year spell femininity

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Dressing up has become fun again now that women are looking like women. The adjectives may not be new, but they're girlish as the clothes come on as fragile, soft, female, and yes, natural.

The softer look of fall is continuing and it includes soft to the eye and soft to the touch. Fabrics are gauzy and delicate and always used in constructions to enhance a woman's femininity and sex appeal.

The trend to skirts and dresses continues unabated on the winter scene and in the newest resort wear. Fashion aficionados say the dresses are now stocked two to one over pants in the specialty shops.

All skirts are full, whether they be

pleated, tiered, wrapped or the popular dirndl and many end in a flourish with a hem ruffle. The soft dirndl skirt worn with a tailored blazer is fast becoming a semi-classic in itself.

You'll still be putting yourself together in layers and fashion knowledgeable women will take care to assemble pieces and parts in subtle, pattern, texture and color combinations.

Topping classic skirts and occasional pants are shirts in fluid, full unstructured lines. These team up with turtlenecks and cowls and are often full, blousy, and blouson.

FEMININITY seems enhanced by the use of the usually masculine pre-nogatives such as tailored vests, wing



collars, string ties, striped shirting and Bermuda shorts.

Most feminine for day and evening is the continuing use of shawls, flounces, tiers, mixed prints and lace touches. The romantic look is accented in both fabric and color and touches of gold, satin and velvet add after-dark glitter.

Romance comes on strong in dresses with peasant silhouettes. The look is

soft and full with drawstring necklines and long puffy sleeves.

Velours, velvet, gauze, silk and satin add to the softness that has become such a sensation. Even the cashmere sweater of your youth has returned to the most wanted list.

Accessories have taken on the flair of fantasy with ballet slipper of satin, suede or skidskin and the high-heeled strappy pumps whose bare looks balance soft skirts and pants.

Make an unusual bag your bag by using a drawstring pouch on a cord, or carrying tiny change pouches and small neck bags on cords or thongs in kidskin, sweater knits or suede. If you don't have enough room for all those essentials you require, why carry two or three tiny bags.

Emphasizing the soft look around your waist calls for the use of metallics, delicate silken cords and leather thongs.

AND AS long as you're going up accessory road, don't forget scarves in airy prints and fabrics, openwork weaves and sheer wool voile, perhaps prettily embroidered. Say "I shall" to a shawl in any one of many fabrics and patterns and you'll be on the right fashion track.

Also newsy add ons are bangle bracelets, flower and leaf motif necklaces of glass, porcelain and metal on shiny cords and chains and hair ornaments such as combs, barrettes, hair pins, headbands also in porcelain, glass or metallic.

If the winter blabs impel you to warmer climes, you'll find the most current beschwear is made of cotton window-curtain lace and swim suits come one-piece, bikini brief or with provocative cut-outs from the navel upward.

If it all seems confusing, it really isn't at all. What's necessary is to relax, shed all your iron-clad cliches about what is right for you and look for what's comfortable, soft, and female. It's now okay to look demure, outrageous, subtle brazen and even sexy—and to have fun doing it.



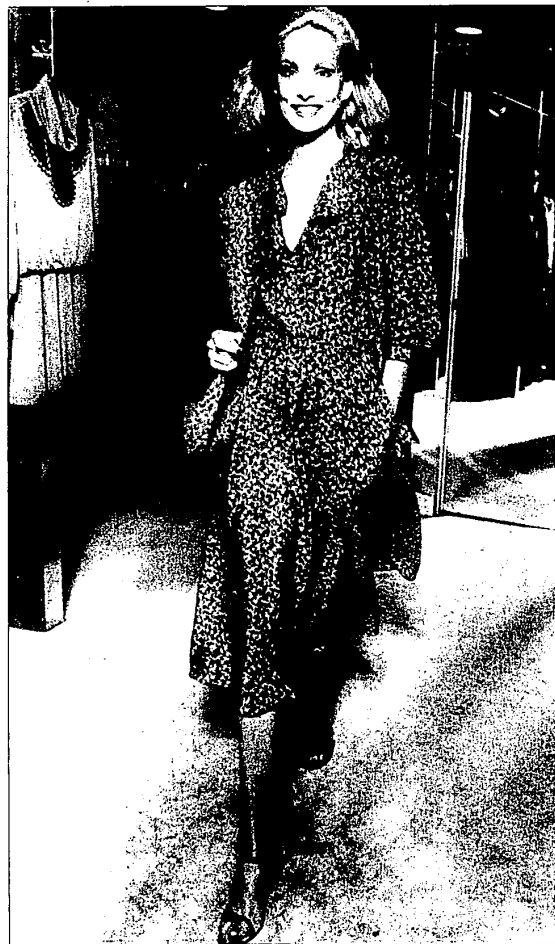
Collage wrapped skirt in assorted trimmings is designed by Koos Van Den Akken and is shown with a white linen blouse with trimming and a button-down front.



Shoulders are bared in these two fashions for spring. (At left) A whimsical print skirt with petticoat peeking out at the hem is topped by a easy sheer



blouse. (At right) A confection of beige and white stripe silk taffeta is meant for romantics.



Easy on the eye and easy to wear is this soft print dress with an elastic waist. The fabric is Abraham silk and the designer is Koos Van Den Akken. The outfit has a sleeveless jacket with side slits and features big pockets both on the dress and on the jacket. It's a re-affirmation of the swing back to looking female with full skirts, ruffles and fluidity. Dresses are going to all lengths; this fashionable covers the knees. Adding the strappy bare sandals keeps the look in touch with today.

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