

## Illusion lends glamor on special occasions

"A woman should look very glamorous for these special occasions in her life," said New York couturier Gregory Ciola during his recent visit to Davidson's in Birmingham.

The bridal season was the major factor behind Ciola's premier appearance in the Detroit area. He is an expert in dressing the woman who, as mother of the bride or groom, plays an important role in hosting one of the major events in her child's life.

He believes mothers of the wedding party should look both glamorous and sexy as well as very special. It is with this in mind that he designs for one of a woman's most memorable life-events.

But, he says, whether the gown is for the mother in the wedding party, a bar mitzvah, an inaugural ball or a gala event, "I try to make a woman look like a woman and that has not been done for the past few years."

To achieve his goal Ciola keeps many design considerations in mind. He uses light beading on many of his gowns, incorporating small bugle beads and baby stones on the bodices to throw light and color onto the face. Illusion necklines are also used, because they are very flattering yet act as a cover-up. Blouson tops are soft and flattering, particularly when combined with a fitted under-bodice with defines and slims under the fashionable bloused top.

Waistlines are minimized with artful use of cummerbunds. Jackets and flowing coats and capes add multiple dimensions.

A favorite among those who visited Davidson's dress salon was a deep,

rich brown chiffon spring-summer gown. Another gown in apricot was also favored by those who stopped in to find just the right gown.

Chiffons, jerseys, laces all very glamorous and high-fashion, joined Ciola's hand painted gowns done in the detailed Flemish mode. Many of these same designs are seen frequently at White House functions in Washington, D.C., and as far away as the La Scala opera house in Italy, he said.

"I create the long couture gown for stately occasions when a woman wants to dress to the importance of the occasion," he explained.

"I have always been a designer," maintains Ciola. "Even when I was in elementary school and supposed to be practicing my spelling, I was sketching fashion designs, which is why, to this day, I cannot spell."

"Fashion is in my blood," he said. A child of the fashion industry, his grandmother was a couturier in Italy. His aunt, a famous designer in the '30s, was one of the first to work with Maurice Rentner, whose line was later to be taken over by Bill Blass. His mother was a model maker and his father worked in the production of garments on Seventh Avenue.

A Ciola gown makes its own statement and needs no further accessorization or embellishment. The clothes require no jewelry. Wear the gowns with strappy sandals, he advises.

"I prefer shoes that match the gown or the no-color sandal."

The exquisite light beading Ciola uses on many of his gowns met with surprised approval from area women who came into the dress salon firmly stating they did not want any beading.



They reversed their opinions when they slipped into the youthful, glamorous gowns only to discover the special allure created by the sparkle of the beads as it reflected onto their faces.

"These are gowns," they agreed, "that make a woman feel very special."



## Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

### Recipe for romance

It has been said that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach. If such is the case, you might want to consider Yvonne Gill Davis' valentine dinner for two (\$15). All you do is pick it up, light the candles and open the wine. The meal consists of chicken strudel (chunks of boneless poached chicken laced with sauce and baked between paper-thin layers of strudel leaves), mushrooms provençal and green salad vinaigrette. For dessert, there's chocolate mousse plus heart-shaped almond butter cookies filled with raspberry cream. Orders must be placed 24 hours in advance.

Yvonne's Cuisine a la Carte (Twenny's Cafe), 280 N. Woodward, Birmingham, 644-0050.

### Heart wear

Should you wish to wear your heart on your sleeve, Tennis Time can help you out. In honor of Valentine's Day, the store will personalize a white T-shirt with your name over and over in red lettering both around the neck and at the edge of the cap sleeve. Then, to make things more interesting, every once in a while they slip in the name of your husband, boyfriend or whatever in a deeper shade of red. But that's not all folks. The price, \$20, includes a red heart on the sleeve. Orders take three days.

Tennis Time, 3615 Maple at Lahser, Bloomfield Commons, 646-4475.

### Scentuous

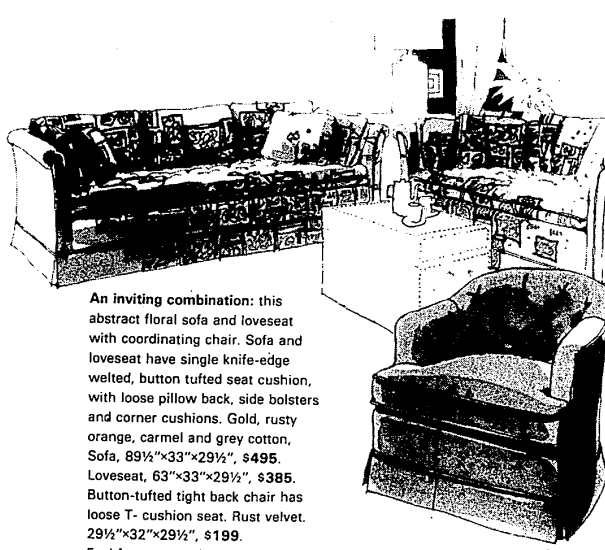
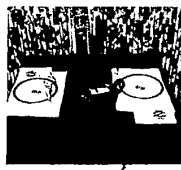
For the sophisticated lady (or perhaps ladies would be more appropriate) in your life, a sensuous sachet would be a fabulous valentine gift. Two styles, made in New York by Maureen and filled with her exclusive potpourri, are currently in stock at Lingerie. A pair of red satin lips costs \$8. The bra and pantie sets (in your choice of red or black satin and trimmed with lace) are \$20.

Lingerie, 568 N. Woodward, Birmingham, 645-1140.

### Call them irresistible

If your valentine finds you to be as irresistible as these enchanting Merry Mice, you're all set. Diminutive in size (four inches tall), each one is chockfull of charming details. Both Sophie and Mary carry wicker baskets filled with red and white polka-dotted mushrooms. Sophie's red and white checked dress and bonnet are trimmed with ruffled white lace. Mary sports a blue gown printed with red hearts and daisies plus a red straw hat with a big white bow. Then there's Jean Claude complete with red skis, a red knit cap and scarf and a green felt jacket.

Talented Trio, Jan Hertel, 647-7923 or Jan Bagley, 851-1925.



An inviting combination: this abstract floral sofa and loveseat with coordinating chair. Sofa and loveseat have single knife-edge welted, button tufted seat cushion, with loose pillow back, side bolsters and corner cushions. Gold, rusty orange, caramel and grey cotton. Sofa, 89½"×33"×29½", \$495. Loveseat, 63"×33"×29½", \$385. Button-tufted tight back chair has loose T-cushion seat. Rust velvet. 29½"×32"×29½", \$199.

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Monday, Feb. 6

Chloe — Karl Lagerfeld will present the 1978 spring and summer Chloe collection during a petite dinner and fashion show at 1 p.m. in the Regency Room at Saks Fifth Avenue Troy. Fashion is described as pure yet refined, ethereal yet sensuous. For information call 643-9000, ext. 312 or 313.

Stanley Sherman — Stanley Sherman's seasonless sportdressing will be informally modeled between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the Sportdress Collection room at Saks Fifth Avenue Troy.

Thursday, Feb. 9  
Kasper — Kasper's col-

lection for surefire winners will be informally modeled in the Regency Room from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Saks Fifth Avenue Troy.

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