



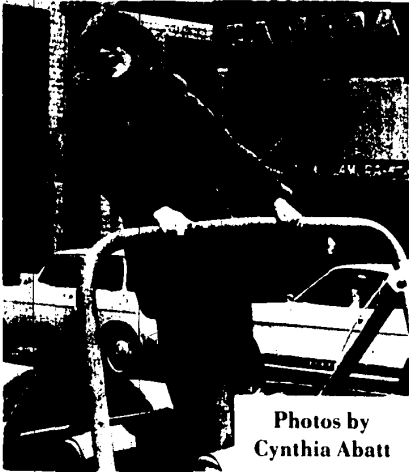
Leather at the sleeve and for the belt of this versatile fur is the touch which adds to its versatility.



A red fox coat with leather side panels and detailing is super functional with dramatic overtones.



Designer Bill Blass is prepared for anything with his ranch mink coat with its own matching rain cover.



Photos by Cynthia Abatt

Blue mink, notched collar, sweatering detail epitomizes the contemporary look in fur.

à la mode

Built in versatility makes for convertible and flexible fashion

By CORINNE ABATT

Fur will be flying in all directions come fall—and in as many colors. Hudsons fur salon previewed a new collection this week, all of which will be 25 percent off during the August fur sales. That means, for instance, that one of the stars of the show, a full length Canadian lynx designed by Oleg Cassini, will be tagged just a sweater under \$10,000 during next month. Considering that individual lynx pelts went for \$575 in the wholesale market, the price makes more sense. Wholesale prices have doubled and tripled in recent years.

TO COUNTERACT this designers are building in versatility. The fur you buy this year will lead a double, maybe even triple life. No longer is fur bulk you throw on to keep you warm on a cold day or simply

the final touch for an elegant evening. Clever additions of leather, suede and sweatering have converted fur into flexible fashion. Leather is used on the underside of collars, sometimes between the strips of fur in the base of the coat, often from underarm to hemline. Sweatering contours waistlines and is occasionally used as inserts. All of this makes for less bulk, smoother fit and sharper styling. Strongly evident in this year's line is the yoke across the back—better fit across the shoulders and plenty of swell in the fullness that drops from the yoke.

DYED MINK, short coats and full length, comes in soft shades of apricot, mauve, earth tones, camel and soft, evening faded blue blue. This latter in two lengths was shown with matching suede slacks. A fur without a collar or hood, sometimes cleverly removable, is as naked as a flower without petals. The bag, squishy collars, often fox on another breed of coat,

are the face framers and ear warmers—pretty and practical. Coats which reach hips or mid thigh are shown with jeans as well as evening wear. If you decide to follow the trend tuck your jeans or gray flannels into boots, wear a long knit scarf outside under the collar and pull on a soft barrel. You have now accoutremented yourself right into the fall fashion scene. Same short coat, red fox, for instance, goes just as pleasantly with winter white pants and white satin shirt—no hat or scarf needed.

A SHORT NATURAL Belgian nutria is another that dresses up or down, combines with any color and texture from polished leather boots to a glittering, bronze Lurex jumpsuit. The final segment of the presentation was furs for the individualist. If you weren't an individualist before wearing them, you certainly will be after. John Anthony's silvery, natural full length racoon, the full length natural Belgian nutria with a dyed fox tuxedo trim, the dramatically marked American lynx or the natural Chinese fitch in Calico cat colors are instant attention getters. Fur salon staffers are quick to point out that today's furs come from animals raised specifically for their furs, just as some are raised for meat. Protected species are never turned into wearables. It may be 90 degrees in the shade, but area fur salons are already stocked and ready for a long, cold, lovely winter.



Shades of mink, this one mauve, combined with sweatering detailing at the waist and cuffs and matching fur collar create a 1976 identity.

Fashion calendar

July 18—Informal modeling from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Mall, Troy.
July 21 and 22—Informal modeling from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. of fashions by designer Gloria Vanderbilt at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Mall, Troy.

LUNCHEON SHOWS
Thursdays—Informal modeling by Alvin's at Cooper's Arms Restaurant, Rochester.
Thursdays—Informal modeling by Boulevard Fashion Salon at the Atrium, Telegraph north of Twelve Mile.
Wednesdays—Informal modeling by Alvin's at the Troy Hilton Haymarket, Troy.
Fridays—Informal modeling by Alvin's at Bedell's, Bloomfield Hills.
For considerations of listings write: Fashion Calendar, 1223 Bevers, Birmingham, 48012.

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