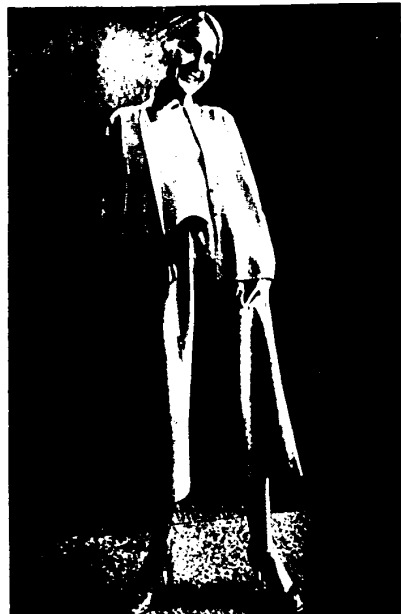


la la mode



The mint silk camisole is worn with a mauve silk skirt and sand silk shirt jacket.



The two-piece hand-painted silk faille-a scarf top and wrap skirt sells for \$135. Actress Irene Tsu poses on movie location of "Paper Tiger." She fell in love with the batik process while filming the movie.

Silks

California designer, Irene Tsu brought her seasonless, quality silks to Claire Peare's in Troy's Somerset Mall Wednesday. Born in Shanghai and raised in New York, Irene Tsu has been an actress for 16 years.

She became a designer as a result of one of her best-known films, "Paper Tiger," starring David Niven. She fell in love with the batik process in Malasia during the filming of the movie and felt she had to make the hand-painted silks into clothes.

A year ago, Ms. Tsu formed the IT Co. in California and began to market her "affordable silks." The silks come from Korea and China and the garments are constructed in Hong Kong, Singapore and Korea.

Ms. Tsu says, "The Americans have not mastered the art of machine sewing silks." But the Chinese and Koreans know how and this accounts for the lower price tag—ranging from \$22 for a camisole top to \$135 for a hand-painted batik caftan.

BELIEVING IN "CASUAL" clothes in late fabrics. Ms. Tsu finds her silks transcend climate. Having just come back from Korea two days ago where it is 18 degrees cold, to sunny California and then on to snowy Michigan, she either wrapped or unwrapped a cozy winter coat over her red silk trouser suit.

The silks travel well and need only be steamed in the shower to shed their wrinkles. The hand-painted silks must be dry cleaned, but the solid silks may be machine washed, gentle cycle, warm water, cool rinse, and then ironed at the silk setting.

Irene Tsu's silks are very wearable from the street-length separates to the trouser suits to a square sarong which wraps and ties in myriad ways. Her colors range from brights to neutrals. But according to Irene, the color and design are not important—the silk is everything.

MARRIED TO TENNIS-PLAYING, screenwriter and director Ivan Nagy, Irene keeps her five-foot, five-inch figure with dance lessons three times a week.

The dance got her into films and the silks into fashion. She has selected fabrics for her summer line and they include soft, striped and solid silks and cotton voile from India. Thinking ahead to fall, she will also work with cashmere from China and has plans for under-exercising body-shaping leotards.

Thirty-one-year-old Irene will continue with her film career, but says she has been "type cast" and finds the challenge of fashion both fun and rewarding.

Staff photos by Barbara McClellan



Irene Tsu shows her batik silk signature caftan with a matching scarf worn as a headwrap or tied at the waist or over the shoulder.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? MY MITTENS, THAT'S WHAT.

My very own name is written right on them, personalized with golden letters on the leather tabs. The exclusive SFA quilted and ribbed nylon mittens have their own little zippered pocket and are completely washable in red or navy, with lacy soft acrylic lining, in sizes small (3 to 4 years), medium (5 to 8 years), large (9 to 12 years), or extra large (13 years and up), 4.50. Children's Collection.

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Troy, Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge

Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

A touch of glass
Gary Flowers and partner Frech Sutherland specialize in glass flowers dating from the early '20s. Tulip-shaped and hand-blown in a variety of colors, the flowers (\$8.50 each) can be used singly or in a mass. They also have many interesting antique vases and containers to put the flowers in. While you're there, be sure to visit the Tiffany Glass Room where you'll find thousands of items from the Tiffany studios in New York, including Tiffany lamps, faurite glass, jewels and Christmas ornaments. The Tiffany pieces start at \$15 and are completely authenticated.
Gary Flowers at The Drake House, 165 Bates, Birmingham, 642-2942.



Fireside shop
The Kaleidoscope features straw hearth brooms that have been decorated with beautiful fat bows and other ornaments. The brooms can be trimmed to match the decor of your room or in seasonal themes. The price ranges from \$5.95 to \$8.95, depending on the materials used. The Kaleidoscope also specializes in gift wrapping materials. Over one hundred bolts of ribbon, in every color, width, and pattern you can imagine, are in stock.
The Kaleidoscope, Vic Tanny Plaza, 3295 Rochester Road, Troy, 629-6464.



Good and healthy
Besides being delicious, this bread is also good for you. It's made from whole grain whole wheat flour and features all natural raw ingredients with no refinement. Sweetened with honey instead of sugar, the bread is baked fresh every day and costs 80 cents for a one-pound loaf.
Gazbo Continental Market, 210 S. Woodward, Birmingham, 647-2727.



The tender trap
The problem with The Mole Hole in Rochester is that it is so enchanting and so chock-full of marvelous items that you may never want to leave. Just a few of the goodies there are bread dough ornaments, Raggedy Ann in five different sizes, gingerbread boy chains, handcrafted doll furniture, straw dolls and tooth fairy pillows. At Christmas time, children may write to Santa (until Dec. 15) in care of The Mole Hole, and when they visit the store they will find a personal reply in the old-fashioned post office. During the Christmas season, The Mole Hole is also open on Sundays 1-5 p.m.
The Mole Hole of Rochester, 323 Main, Rochester, 651-4600.



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a child's world and its changing patterns, captured by our multi-image super-kaleidoscope... a fun to use, educational imagination stirring way to view the world around us. By combining different trays and discs, by adding common household items such as pieces of colored paper, shells, elastic bands, anything small and interesting... the designs that can be created are endless. Included: metal kaleidoscope tube and fittings, 2 special lenses, 2 slide lids, multicolor disc, 2 slide trays, 1 bag each of beads, dried flowers, small plastic shapes and strips. Recommended for children 4 years and older. \$5

Jacobson's

Children's Store
Woodward at Willits

TOYS-GAMES 'N FUN