

Created by Christos

Fantasy and lace in white

By RUSTLE SHAND

Birmingham has its own resident bridal expert in Ruth Seligson, who owns Today's Bride, a small, smart salon at Davidson's on Pierce Street. Guests who viewed Ms. Seligson's extravagant fashion show Jan. 30 at Somerset Inn in Troy, saw the unique designs of Christos for Bridal Couture.

Award-winning designer Christos gains his inspiration for bridal designs from his own romantic nature, he says. He is a master of laces and delicate detail as well as a trend-setting designer.

His "Ivory Tower" bride, considered a Christos signature, is a fragile and feminine design on English net, shaped with lace and beaded with pearls and crystal.

Calling his spring-summer designs "Bridal Fantasy," Christos goes from the "Ivory Tower" bride to vested bouffant gowns for the peasant look. Or from the long tunic panel gowns for the Mandarin look, to the very soft look in fluid jerseys.

He does bridesmaid's gowns in fabrics reminiscent of spring blossoms, in chiffons and vivid flower colors. He does veils and gingham cottons. Many of the maid's gowns may be worn over and over again for other occasions.

"Our brides of today are a multi-faceted group of young women," said Chris Oshikata, bridal consultant for Bridal Couture. He added, "They're career women and active socially. There are traditional looks, fantasy looks and multi-purpose looks with many fun gowns that may be worn to the country club afterwards."

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ACCESSORIES PLAY an important role in the fantasy look of today's bride. Juliet caps and the lace cloche or large garden hats, pillboxes or simple head veils carry out the theme of the gowns.

The Mandarin theme was enhanced with bamboo hand fans, while the garden party weddings boasted flowered and decorative parasols.

The modal brides wore white or ivory and their maids wore color, from pastels to brights, while the guests sampled wedding cake, courtesy of Gallery of Cakes of Detroit.

There was also a panorama of creative bridal bouquets from GIGI's Floral Fashions of Redford.

GIGI'S COMBINED large fresh strawberries with daisies and baby's breath in a charming small bouquet. They used real lemons cut in half and wired, sunny-face up, in a small basket midst daisies and fern. Or they dangled a topiary ball of fresh flowers from a ribbon wrist bracelet.

Add to this, lovely mothers-of-the-wedding party gowns from Davidson's and flower girl dresses from Pam's of Bloomfield, and the only thing lacking was the groom and the minister.



The romantic look is expressed in this full ivory organza gown with Venetian lace torso and satin ribbon belting. Scattered lace decorates the veil.



Venetian lace decorates the bodice, high crown collar and helmet headpiece.



The ivory organza gown above has unusual caped sleeves that flow from the shoulders.

STAFF PHOTOS
By
BARBARA
MCLELLAN

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had a
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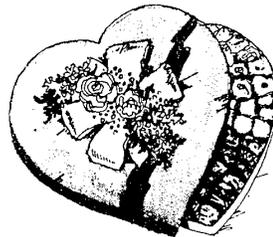
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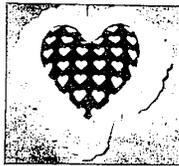
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Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

Hearts and flowers

This adorable heart-shaped pillow (\$6.50) would make a terrific Valentine's Day gift. Trimmings with white eyelet ruffles, the 15-by-16 inch washable pillows are in stock in a variety of Lilly Pulitzer pastel prints or in the red and white heart design that is shown in the photograph. Lilly Pulitzer, 51 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, 645-1790.



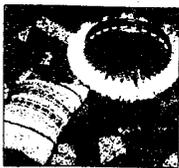
Out of print

What a great way to spruce up your decor! These marvelous pure cotton, handmade, block print fabrics from Iran can be used as is for tablecloths, napkins and bedspreads or they can be made into pillows, draperies, chair seats or whatever else you're clever enough to think of. Printed on a natural background, there are unlimited patterns and colorations to choose from. They are available in various sized square, round, and rectangular pieces and the price ranges from \$8 to \$26, depending on the size you select. Orient Tapestry Company inside Tadross and Zahoute, 108 S. Woodward, Birmingham, 647-1740.



Around Square Peg

If you're a crafts connoisseur, The Square Peg is a shop you should know about. Some of the things you'll discover there are handwoven clothing, pillows and wallhangings by Nancy Wines-Dewan of Bowdoin, Maine; pottery in many forms by J. David Broudo of Beverly, Mass.; and silver jewelry by Bennett Tobias. The Square Peg is also chockful of hand-crafted patchwork quilts, soft sculptures, batik T-shirts and stuffed animals. Square Peg in the Claymore Apartment Building, 2926 Franklin Road, Southfield, 356-1999.



Vanity fair

Speaking of craftsmanship, the Godey print shadowboxes, exclusively at Moseley's, are a joy to behold. The backgrounds consist of original Godey prints taken from old magazines. The figures in the drawings are then hand-dressed with old satin and lace to become three-dimensional. They are further adorned with such things as pearl bracelets and necklaces, longnettes, fans, and umbrellas. Mounted on velvet and set in wooden frames, the one-of-a-kind shadowboxes are available in rectangular or octagonal shapes and range in price from \$150 to \$350. Moseley's, 100 N. Woodward, Birmingham, 645-0060.



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