

make people's lives work," he explains.

"I work with fabrics that look great at night. People talk about man-made fibres, and it seems to me that a fibre from wood, coal or oil is just as natural as one from a plant.

"I think man-made fibres have tremendous validity today. They create a fabric that remains band-box fresh."

He believes in designing international clothes so fashion becomes non-regional and adds "I believe in the American dream which is to make the most beautifully designed clothes at the most realistic price with the most beautiful fabrics which conform to the woman's environment."

The pretty, soft dress has returned along with

"the whole idea of dressing appropriately for the occasion," says Muto. He stresses the return of the dinner dress which he says should be below the knee to ankle length.

Anthony Muto was the first to make the fluted, pleated chiffon dresses. He likes to use large tucks in chiffon and he likes printed and hand-painted chiffons. One of his favorite new fab-

rics is Luster Cloth, a seasonless fabric with the sheen of satin.

He calls one of his printed chiffons "donuts in heaven" symbolizing large white circles on blue. He uses Qiana and dotted polyester chiffon as vibrant silks. "Comfort is an important part of the way women dress," he insists.

Muto isn't alone in having a major influence on

the spring fashion scene.

Janice Morse, Bonwit Teller's design salon manager, reported from her New York safari that the big news is that designer influence is back and strong.

"Fashion traditionally has had two prevailing influences, Ms. Morse explained. "One is what the designers suggested, and the other is what dominates in the street.

(Continued on Page 36)



Yves St. Laurent presents a spring peasant look, with the knee-length skirt in red and black print.



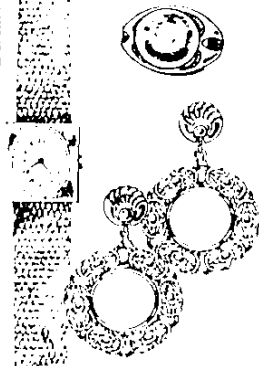
Pale blue print chiffon blouse goes beautifully with a parchment silk skirt. They are by Anthony Muto.



Halston features soft, sensuous fabrics for spring and introduces new sleeve interest.

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