

Rare combination of recluse and success story

By RUSTLE SHAND
His and her fashions by Bill Kaiserman for Rafael make a strong statement for relaxation. They are classic but contemporary-conservative but sexy.

Kaiserman's easy livin' designs reflect his "liberated dress" philosophy for both men and women. His natural fiber clothes showcase the exquisite tailoring for which he is famous, yet they softly conform to the body.

Headquarters for Rafael designs for men and women is the Me & My Lady boutique on Woodward between 10 and 11 Mile. Rafael merchandise is also available at Ciabattino at 555 Woodward, Birmingham.

Both boutiques are owned by Carol and Gary Begdorian, who described their customers as "people who travel, are aware of what's happening and are interested only in quality merchandise." "In fact," they add, "our customers believe in making an investment in fashion."

Collectors of Rafael, says Kaiserman, are "self-determining, strongly

opinionated individuals with poignant views about life and equally vital views about the clothes they wear."

Not all of the people who wear his clothes are in the public eye. "Some are famous, some unknown, but they all love my things," he said. Although Kaiserman, 35, is fore-

However, he is equally a businessman. He is not only the creative energy behind the clothing, but the dynamic force behind the company he founded.

Kaiserman directed Rafael Fashion, Ltd. into the area in which he

He then broadened his collection, adding a line of casual suits and tailored sportswear which earned him his second Coty Menswear Award. Then came the most impressive honor of all, the Coty Hall of Fame Award for Menswear.

While establishing these impressive credentials, Kaiserman expanded his lifestyle concept and created a Rafael woman's line. He sees the new line "enabling the women who luxuriates in casual comfort to combine classic men's tailoring with fine imported fabrics for elegant, yet simple, styling."

At present, the designer Bill Kaiserman and the business man Bill Kaiserman are quite logically and unassumingly opening a new era for himself and his company. He's beginning first with a complete line of shirts that complement both the men's and women's collections. The future will include a full line of accessories to complete a total look for the Rafael man and woman.



most a designer, he is also something of a recluse. With his wife Milly, he lives quietly on the east side of Manhattan.

But, professionally Kaiserman continues to grow. Today his designing ways have come full circle. From the very first, when his innovative ideas turned the hat industry upside down back in 1968, each new step has met with marked success.

most strongly believed. He called it "a liberation of dress for men," using casual clothing, uniquely presented in what he has described as "an alternate that is valid and sensible."

His next phase developed as naturally as his clothing. It was a complete collection of sportswear and outerwear that catapulted him into the fashion spotlight and created the foundation for his first Coty Menswear Award.



Her unconstructed blazer is worn over a silk T-shirt and khaki cotton parachute pants. His oversized shirt is worn over a cotton pull-over shirt and straight-legged pants. Collection also is at Ciabattino at 555 Woodward, Birmingham.

fashion calendar

Wednesday, May 3

"A Woman Is..." The Troy Junior Woman's Club will hold a spring fashion show at 7:30 p.m. at Boyd-Larson Middle School, 222 E. Long Lake. Featured will be fashions from Hadley's. Proceeds from the show will go to Troy Juniors-sponsored community projects, including a teen club for retarded children, a cultural enrichment program for elementary students plus scholarships and campership programs.

The doors will open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$3.50 per person by reservation only. For information call 649-6117.

Thursday, May 4

The final touch that counts — Jacobson's will present a demonstration of unusual ways to tie, wrap and enhance your wardrobe with scarves and shawls from noon to 4 p.m. on the main floor of the Birmingham apparel store. Program will include informal modeling and do-it-yourself tips.



Designer Bill Kaiserman and businessman Bill Kaiserman are quite logically opening a new era which will include complete lines for both men and women. His champagne carmuse tucked front wing collar blouse and matching parachute pants are designed for both men and women. Me & My Lady owners, Carol and Gary Begdorian, asked "Nice, isn't it?"

Where It's At

If you're a devotee of Women's Wear Daily, Vogue or Harper's Bazaar, you already know about Barry Kieselstein-Cord. For the uninitiated among us, he's the very "in" young jewelry designer whose highly unique and stunning sculptured bracelets, necklaces, pendants, belt buckles, earrings, cuff links, Russian crosses and rings are worn by the likes of Diane Keaton, Calvin Klein and Mick Jagger. Each piece is worked by hand by Cord. It is hand-crafted, hand-polished and signed. Cord will personally present his collection Monday and Tuesday, May 8 and 9 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Jules R. Schubot Jewellers, Jules R. Schubot, Suite 112, 3001 Big Beaver West, Troy, 649-1122.



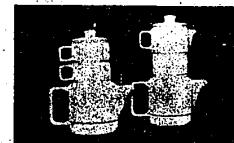
Just in time for Mother's Day, here's a way to make tennis playing Moms stars in stripes forever. Call It Love has a fabulous group of mix and match shorts and t-shirts, all done in reds, whites and navy blues. The cotton and polyester shirts (\$24.50) feature satin cuffs, collars and tab fronts. The shorts (\$24.50) are in stock in your choice of velour with satin stripe trim or satin with satin striped trim. To top it all off, you can purchase a navy and red striped velour blazer complete with white velour lapels and elbow patches (\$60.50) as well as red satin tennis shoes (\$22.50). Call It Love, Orchard Mall, 6337 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, 626-7400.



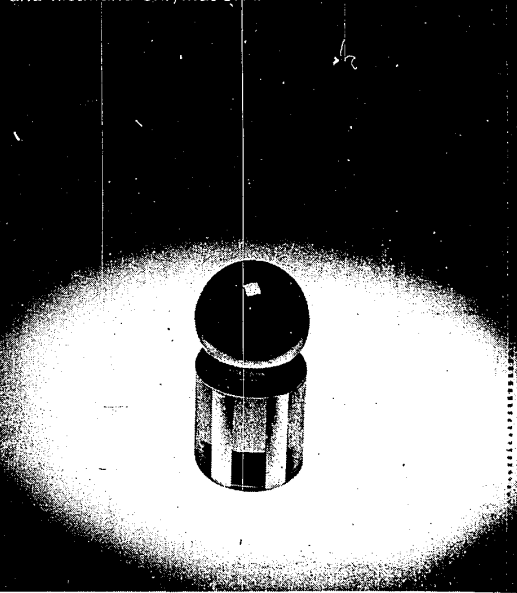
Say goodbye to those mundane pink and blue pastel prints! Bloomies can help you have the nicest nursery in town, starting from a fitted crib sheet (\$10) made-up from the sheet pattern of your choice all the way to a total room utilizing sheets for wall and shirred ceiling treatment. Some of the other nursery items Bloomies can create for you out of their wonderful colorful sheets are bumper pads with white eyelet trim (\$70), reversible custom quilted crib comforters (\$50) and crib dust ruffles. Bloomies, 222 E. Maple, Birmingham, 644-8870.



What a cute idea! For the place that's short of space, be it your office or tiny kitchen, this white porcelain teapot from the Toscana Collection comes in two clever versions. One has a sugar and creamer that stack right on top of the pot (\$18.50). The other has two cups (for coffee, tea or what have you) that stack on top of the pot (\$17). Featuring contemporary square handles and thin black line trim, the "Tea for Two" pots are sure to be a conversation piece wherever they find a home. The Table Setting, 335 E. Maple, Birmingham, 644-5750



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Courrèges. Created by Andre Courrèges, it is...like everything Courrèges, modern...and magic. The perfect melding of a contemporary bouquet with rare essence of spice. An intertwining...of roses, jasmine, mimosa and hyacinth—with just a breath of patchouli—a whisper of exotica. All of it, together, soft—warm—sure...like a woman herself, leaving a fragrance in the air long after she's gone. Courrèges. Perfume, 1/4 oz., 22.50; 1/2 oz., 40; 1 oz., 70. Perfume Spray, 1/4 oz., 18.50; retail, 12.50. Concentrated Cologne, 2 oz., 12.50; 4 oz., 18.50; 8 oz., 28.50. Concentrated Cologne Spray, 2 oz., 13.50; 4 oz., 19.50. Come meet our fragrance specialists in Pulse Point.

Saks Fifth Avenue

Troy, Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge, open Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays until 9 PM.