

# 'You shouldn't look strangled to death'

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says, "Stop everything—I just walked into the room!"

JACKETS, said Ms. Coe, will be worn over everything. Shapes are limitless, from casual sportive to the little Spencer jacket, to the Chanel and Drop Dead tuxedo jackets for night.

Coats also will be of major importance. There will be a light look combined with the new silhouette, focusing on wider shoulders, narrowing to a slimmer bottom-line. Capes will also continue to be important.

"Two years ago," she said, "French women were all in skirts. Now they are into narrowed dinner pants."

"The shoe is either high-heeled or low-heeled. Bitchy shoes," she said, "remain an important part of the whole design."

"We have all been pleasantly peasant for a long time," she said, "I happen to look better with an ascot or bow at my neck and am thankful to report that the new shirts all come close to

the neck with a wealth of dressmaker details. Every outfit has a beautiful shirt with it," she said.

"The French can't get together on anything let alone color," she explained. "The spectrum of color for day includes darks and neutrals—greys and beige, bordeaux, soft greens, stone blues, some amethysts."

An important part of the Drop Dead look is what Ms. Coe calls "Here I Am Black!" She said she saw more black in the Paris showings than she had seen in five years.

"Night-time glamour is a feast of luxury fabrics," she said. Velvet, chiffons, lace plus beading and sequins on tops and trousers light up the night along with metallic brocades and satins.

"ACCESSORIES ARE a part of the act," said Ms. Coe. The French woman still cares so much about the accessories that she combines them

all artfully for a total look including make-up, stockings, shoes, hats, gloves and jewelry.

"We trimmed accessories to the bare minimum in the last few years. But, because the clothes and shapes and outlines are simpler now, the big jewels have come back, including big pearls, pendants, and rhinestones."

Obviously, she said, fake jewelry is a trend to watch.

"Let's get dressed up again!" said Ms. Coe. "All my friends say 'I need a dress, something to wear to lunch or to church on Sunday.'"

The French designers, she said, are creating this kind of dress. It is one you may wear for daytime occasions but that will also carry over for after five.

Ms. Coe is a member of the Fashion Group of New York, Inc., an association of women in the fashion business, and was regional director of the Detroit Chapter of that association in 1974-75.

—by Rustie Shand

*'The French woman still cares so much about accessories that she combines them all artfully for a total look, including makeup. Accessories are a part of the act.'*  
—Madelyn Coe



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Courreges' signature dress is white knitted crewneck with long sleeves, shoulder yoke, cut at waist and tightened with a beige leather belt.

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