

As Europe goes, so goes U.S.

The early 1970s marked the opening of a new era in the history of Italian fashion with the emergence of the house of Basile and the birth and success of the Milan ready-to-wear showings.

In the spring of '71, Aldo Ferrante, the president of Basile, took a dramatic step. Instead of showing in Florence, as was customary, he decided to debut the Basile collection in Milan. And thus began the movement toward the creation of Milan as a world fashion center.

As a signature, the name Basile originated with Ferrante, the same man who owned a men's tailor. When Ferrante acquired the Basile concern, he retained the name but began transforming it into a forward-fashion house of men's wear.

Under his guidance, the Basile name became synonymous with sophisticated styling and elegant fabrics in men's wear. Amplifying his successful formula, Ferrante went on to create a Basile line for women, based upon the fashion principles of Basile men's.

Like her male counterpart, the Basile woman is young and sophisticated—a fashion leader. She enjoys wearing suits, but, as Ferrante commented, "suits are the bread of my collections, but one cannot live on bread alone." Thus his fall/inter '78 col-

lection transcends the traditional suit. "The art of dressing can only survive when there is total freedom in selecting one's wardrobe, creating contrasts and combinations where they never existed before," says Ferrante.

AT A TRUNK showing at Hattie in Birmingham this week, Ferrante's Basile line of ready-to-wear will focus on the concept of "contr. &," which mixes shape and fabrics in a new way.

Pigid coats, accessorized with pannier scarves, are worn with fresh white gardening in the lapels. Shorter blazers with softly padded shoulders are worn on top of anything and everything—from leather skirts to printed satin pants.

Trendsetting buffalo hide and shearling offer a new look to vests and jackets—both worn over shiny satin cigarette pants. Kid leather is printed to simulate the unique grain of ostrich for skirts, trousers and blazers—always paired with rich satins.

The collection highlights the slim silhouette, created by slightly padded shoulders in blazers and coats and top narrow ankle-length cigarette pants. The over-printed tunic is gently wrapped at the waist. Blouses are shorter and single-breasted. Trousers are pleated and cuffed. Ferrante replaces the boot with very narrow

straight leg cigarette pants layered under both tunics and dresses for day and evening.

Shiny panno velvet, once reserved for evening, now appears in skirts and tunics for day, too, emerges for daytime wear—worn under tweed blazers, pin-striped suits, plaid covert cloth coats. In the evening, the satin is printed with flowers.

The look of pilled wool is the newest

looking fabric used in coats, blazers, pants and tunics.

To complete his look, Ferrante adds "reporter" hats in panno velvet, felt or pilled wool. School bags and shorter shoulder strap pouches become a must.

During the day, low-heeled men's oxfords are worn with thick wool stockings. For evening, lace T-strap shoes or high-heeled leather pumps are worn with fishnet stockings.

Italian gala set for arts

The Junior Council of the Founders Society Detroit Institute of Arts and Hudson's will sponsor an Italian Gala benefit Sunday from 7:30 p.m. to midnight at Hudson's Oakland Mall.

Guests of honor for the gala evening are Otilio and Rosita Missoni, who have promised a dramatic showing of the Missoni fall collection to highlight the evening. The Missoni, who opened a designer shop at Hudson's Oakland Mall Aug. 25, have become world renowned for turning clothes into art form.

Serving as honorary chairman of the gala event will be Christina Ford. Assisting her will be Suzi Farbman and Brenda Rosenberg, co-chairwoman; Scott Romney, publicity chairman; and Marilyn Connor, food chairwoman.

Proceeds from the benefit will be directed toward an acquisition for the Italian Wing of the Detroit Institute of Arts. The funds will be used to match a National Endowment for the Arts Challenge Grant.

Tickets are \$15 per person and include a buffet supper and the Missoni fashion show. Dancing will complete the evening.

Tickets for the Italian Gala are available at Hudson's Oakland, Northland, Eastland, Novi and Fairlane ticket services.

For further information contact Scott Romney at 962-6700.

Basile, who rates raves this year, will introduce his collection locally this week including viyella pegged pants, a matching tunic and shirt.

Southfield artists in Art in the Park

Mary Murphy Reed's serigraph prints and stained glass by Virtu Studio, both Southfield entries, will be featured at Art in the Park on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 16 and 17 in Shain Park, Birmingham.

The show is Common Ground's fourth annual exhibition and will star some 120 juried artists in the fair.

Top flight artists from this area and throughout the country will exhibit a variety of art media including prints, sculpture, jewelry, photography, weaving, ceramics, stained glass, blown glass and soft sculptures.

Special attractions will include a children's art area, ethnic food booths and free entertainment from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. both days.

Spots by friends of Common Ground, Art in the Park is rated one of the top regional art fairs in the midwest by "Sunshine Artists Magazine." The fair annually draws some 20,000 visitors to the park, located one block north of Maple Road and two blocks west of Woodward.

Proceeds from the event support

Common Ground, a Birmingham human service agency which focuses on the prevention and intervention in mental health problems, particularly among adolescents. Services include legal, medical and crisis counseling.

Bnai Brith women will tour Ren-Cen

A bus will leave Southfield's Congregation Beth Achim at 10:45 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13, for Detroit Renaissance Center. Passengers will be members of Henry Morris Chapter, Bnai Brith women, and guests who will tour, shop, lunch and see a fashion show in the Ren-Cen.

Reservations must be made before Sept. 7 with Arlene Blumberg, 6287 Pincroft, West Bloomfield, 48033.

Persons who choose to drive their own cars will be charged \$2.50. For those taking the bus, the charge is \$5.00.

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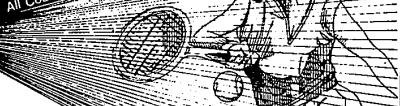
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