

Layered clothes add up to investment dressing

Fiandaca, the Boston based couturier who dresses household names across the nation, often gains new clientele through his wedding gown designs. But unlike many of the world's top designers who gained their initial renown through bridal designs, then cast them aside, Fiandaca still enjoys doing bridal gowns.

"I did the weddings of Christine Hogan Jones and Sally Slatkin and they are both now faithful customers," he said. "When I do their weddings they continue with me as customers, and as their husbands get prosperous, we both do better. The weddings have been good luck for them and they have been good luck for me."

Fiandaca's continued popularity as a designer of high-priced clothing stems from his investment dressing concept of design.

"I think that if you buy a suit this year, you should wear it seven years from today," he said. "When you make clothes at my price level, everyday living clothes have to be an investment." He has proved his concept consistently. "All my customers say, 'you know that dress I bought four years ago? I still wear it and I am looking for a new piece to go with it.' They keep adding to rather than discarding. "When I talk about investment, I mean investment," said Fiandaca as he

pointed out his \$1,270 winter coat.

THE GRAY WOOL flannel double-face reversible coat comes complete with suit, vest, blouse and long scarf, designed to take care of all winter coat needs, layering and all.

"After last winter I have made everything double layered," he said. "I spent two years in Boston trying to brave the cold and then I began to layer and line my designs in fur."

The designer added a new line of pizzazz to his usual low key proper decorum approach to evening clothes which last year gained him a new client, Michigan's first lady, Helen Milliken.

"Glamour is back," he said. "These are the jazziest evening clothes I have done in a long time. I generally don't get so flamboyant. But the ladies like this look for very formal occasions and when it comes to glamour in evening dress, costs don't matter."

Watteau pleats, crumb catcher bodices and intricate back detailings join the finish on his sensational evening clothes.

He claims his unique finish has been picked up by other top designers. It's a fringe, used to finish the edges of gar-

ments, accomplished by cutting the fabric on the grain and then hand-pulling and stitching to finish the edges.

ALTHOUGH THE nucleus of Fiandaca's clientele began with a group of Boston socialites, his recent nationwide tour of the Bonwit Teller stores has earned him considerable recognition and an increasingly strong following.

In addition to his prestigious Detroit area clientele, he also dresses Lauren Bacall, Mrs. Edward Kennedy, Mrs. Robert Redford, Christina Ford, the Empress Farah Diba of Iran and Sheikhah Sabah, the Princess of Kuwait.

He is currently working on a new wardrobe for actress Louise Fletcher. Fiandaca designed her gown for last year's Academy Awards ceremony.

Fiandaca believes that clothes should be timeless and ageless with the ball gown concept completely passe.

He feels the importance and elegance of today's dressing is in the accessories one utilizes, with carefree and easy to pack clothes as the basis of building a wardrobe.

Beautiful designs, fine workmanship and lovely fabrics are his image.

Fiandaca's clothes are available locally at Bonwit Teller in Somerset Mall, Troy.



The mid-calf number with ruffled trim is an example of Fiandaca's glamour-is-back. All of his after-five designs are timeless, and packable for today's on-the-go woman.



Alfred Fiandaca, whose fame as a designer began with creating bridal fashions for Boston's elite, now has a clientele that stretches to the Empress Farah Diba of Iran. His recent nationwide tour of Bonwit Teller stores earned him considerable recognition and an increasingly strong following.

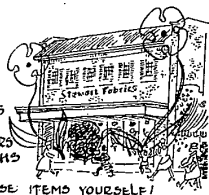


Fiandaca's investment in keeping warm is a winter coat, vested and totally reversible, which comes complete with suit, vest, blouse and long scarf, designed to take care of all winter coat needs. At \$1,270 when Fiandaca says investment, he means investment.

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Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

Tutus too

If you're into gymnastics, dance, exercising, skating or baton twirling, Maurice Danswear is a terrific place to know about. Besides a large selection of leotards and dance shoes, the store carries a number of hard-to-find items. For example, free standing ballet bars that can be raised and lowered are in stock in lengths of five, eight and 10 1/4 feet, and they can be ordered up to 21 feet in length. You'll also find Tutus ranging in size from a child's small to an adult large; batons and boots for majorettes and over 600 different record albums containing music designed specifically for gymnastics.

Maurice Danswear, 119 S. Main, Royal Oak, 546-5590.

Glamor for kitchens

Isn't it nice to get back to the basics? Kitchens are no longer sterile, utilitarian rooms just for making meals. Instead, they've once again become the hub of the house where mothers cook, kids study and friends kibbitz. In keeping with this concept, good looking kitchen accessories are becoming just as important as the candlesticks in the living room. These stunning clay crocks imported from France would enhance any kitchen decor. Featuring a caramel-colored glaze plus matching lids, seven different sizes are available ranging from a three-cup crock (\$5.95) to a 12-quart crock (\$19.95).

La Cuisiniere, 210 S. Woodward, Birmingham, 646-8899.

Gift horse

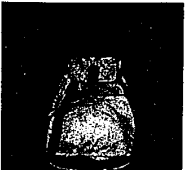
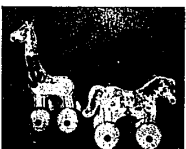
Gifts in and of themselves are always nice but when you give a gift that's been made especially for the recipient, it becomes something special. The Village Barn paints wooden toys with charming colors, designs and details, including names, dates or whatever you desire. The horses, giraffes and hippos (\$11.75 each) would make terrific baby gifts while the Volkswagens or racing cars (\$10.75 each) would be a marvelous way to remember someone's 16th birthday.

The Village Barn, 32760 Franklin Road, Franklin, 851-7877.

Getting carried away

Initial customer response indicates these new bags from Enny of Italy are going to make the bestseller list and for good reason: they're just as practical as they are pretty. Made of waterproof material and trimmed with real leather, the bags can be carried year round and they pack easily for traveling. Five different styles are available varying from pouchy shoulder bags to satchel-shaped hand bags. All have interesting zipper and pocket arrangements and prices range from \$65 to \$75 depending on the style you choose.

The Shoe Salon at Clair Fearone, Somerset Mall, Troy, 643-0770.



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