

# Versace makes clothes strong and gutsy by day

By RUSTLE SHAND

"I want women to look beautiful." A simple, direct statement is the philosophy of Gianni Versace, the young designer whose dynamic success is spearheading Italy's fashion thrust.

On closer examination, however, Versace allows he is more concerned about clothing that reflects



White fur pelts form a petal shape for one design that is strongly Versace.

the inner beauty of a woman. He believes a woman's clothes should be "strong and gutsy during the day."

But in the evening, clothing should be very feminine, he adds.

If you've been under the impression that there is nothing very exciting in this season's ready-to-wear, then you haven't yet seen the offerings of Gianni Versace at Claire Pearone's shop in Somerset Mall, Troy.

Versace believes strongly in inner beauty and likes women to look vital with strength and intelligence. His designs reflect this admiration for women. It is obvious that he does not think a woman has to look merely sexy to succeed. That is not to say, however, that he overlooks the importance of making an entrance.

HE COMBINES the new focus on quality with

sensuous fabrics so a woman looks important, rather than overdone.

Among his young, modern designs are heavily embroidered black leather cape coats and light-as-a-feather rubberized silk coats. He has also done double wool coats with two different faces and stunning, sheering lamb coats in vibrant colors. The Versace coats are all flared from the shoulder, not fitted into the body.

He has carried his double-faced theme throughout the collection. A wool challis, tiny-waisted dress is piped in silk taffeta to match its slip underdress. A violet and olive boucle tuxedo coat is lined in violet silk taffeta to match the dress that goes with it.

His suits and skirts are lined in vibrant silks and come with matching camisoles and shirts.

He has carried his distinctive flower motif embroidery onto his grey flannel trousers which, while still tapered, have diminished in waistline fullness from two or three pleats to one.

Most of his shirts have matching camisoles. One set which sells for \$255, is a grey menswear striped soft wool blouse which reverses to magenta silk taffeta to match the accompanying camisole.

AN EXAMPLE of his strong, yet very feminine designs for evening, sparked Claire Pearone's window display. White fox pelts attached to the shoulder formed a petal shape with the fox head displayed on the back of the wrap and the tail accentuating one cuff. Under the fox wrap were Versace's white leotard pieces — his front and back pleated evening pants with a matching embroidered camisole.

## Class Reunions

### FARMINGTON 1954

The class of 1954, the first to graduate from Farmington High School's present building on Shawassaw, will hold its 25-year reunion Saturday, Oct. 13, in the Holiday Inn of Farmington. The class numbered 113, and many of that number are planning to attend the event from homes as far away as Phoenix and San Diego. An informal get-together also is planned Friday, Oct. 12. Those interested in more information on the reunion may call Carol Rossmore, 349-7324.

### DETROIT ALL SAINTS

All students who attended All Saints High School from 1923 to 1970 are invited to a reunion scheduled Saturday, Oct. 13, in St. Clement Hall, Dearborn. For reservations and ticket information call Charles Anderson, 869-4969.

### BERKLEY 1959

The Berkley High School class of 1959 will hold its 20-year reunion at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Stephenson Club, Ten Mile and I-75. Tickets including dinner and dancing are \$20 per person or \$35 per couple, and those interested in attending may write Cheryl Woods, 18153 Coral Gables, Lathrup Village, 48076.

### MERCY COLLEGE

The alumni association of Mercy College of Detroit will sponsor a "Touch of Class" reunion dance at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 19, in Mercy Center, 8200 W. Outer Drive. Classes of 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969 and 1974 will be honored.

Tickets are \$8, and the price covers beer and snacks. A cash bar also is available.

Reservations should be made by Oct. 10 by calling the college's alumni office, 531-7820, between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

### DETROIT ESTABROOK 1929

The class that graduated from eighth grade at Detroit's Estabrook elementary school in 1929 will hold its 50-year reunion Oct. 27. Classes that graduated from the school up to 1935 are invited to attend. Those interested may call Arvilla Bryant Evelyn, 274-2041, or Grace Catto Ryan, 881-4516.



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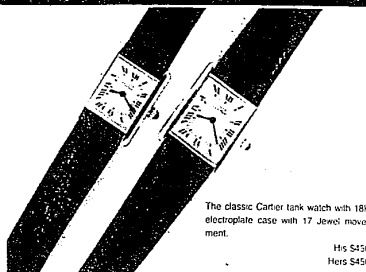
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