

At ease men!

Is is true Retro look?

The '30s, the '40s. We've been hearing a lot about them in fashion. But, is it a truly retrospective movement?

The man of fashion will be wearing natural fibers such as silk and linen; but, in many cases, they will be in combination with man-made fibers that will assure easy clothing care.

Add to that, the natural shades — ecru, tan, chestnut, brick — will be very popular again, as will the Western look, if indeed it ever went away.

The younger man will be dressing up, too — from the top of his head, where shorter hair will be the rule, to his feet, which will be encased in an all-over perforated Italian import shoe.

The look of linen and silk will be the new ideas of the season. Sometimes the fabrics will be 100 percent natural fiber. Other times, especially with linen, the fabrics will be blends that offer a look in addition to easy care.

Light tones are in, but don't despair for the darker shades. They will be much in evidence too. Whether one, two or three button jacketing, all will be influenced by a narrowed lapel and pocket flaps.

RAINWEAR still retains its popularity, but the tendency will be toward basics. Fewer trims and embellishments are the key. Trench coats remain the most popular. In keeping with the narrower look in tailored clothing, collars, lapels, pocket welts, and flaps are narrower.

A great many natural-fiber looks will be available, in colors still primarily in the tan family, from wheat and natural to deep and British tans. The new ultra-light tan or alabaster shades are showing great impact for spring.

The one immutable rule during this best of all fashion season, jump suits will not be seen this spring.

Instead, lounge suits will take their place. And, they will serve a dual purpose — the tops and pants may be worn as lounge suits or the tops may coordinate with shorts for sport wear.

Jute, cotton or terry knit, even orlon acrylic

and silk shantung, are being adapted to lounge wear. Robes will be lightweight, in natural fibers and terry knit in earth tones and pastels.

THE LADY who wants to present a tie — too often the results have been total disaster — will look for an average width of 3¼ or two inches for knits. Color and texture are very important.

Burette is the new raw silk fabric for the season, especially if it is woven and printed. Soft, blended earth tones are ideal for the country look. Seek them out in brick to chestnut to taupe, but make sure the colors are natural.

Linen, linen look, cotton and silk are ideal in neat foulards, stripes and clubs. Bow ties are back, especially string bows.

Dress shirts will appear in a variety of styles. However, collars are shorter, and should be rounded, pointed, banded or detachable. Tuxedo shirts can also be winged, and won't be exclusive to the suits they are named for. These days they will be seen with daytime wear and writhing in discos.

The country influence indicates that pastel colors are right for this season. Ginger root, melon, tan, blue, natural and white are very good.

Neat, classic, not-bold stripes and checks will balance the popularity of the unsolid solid which has the feel of a pattern.

Sportswear will most often appear in earth tones. Colors such as mocha, taupe, suntan and tennis tan will be used in blazers, jackets and vests.

All sportswear is relaxed, jackets often cut military style. Vests will be worn with or without blazers. The modified flared leg will still be important, but the straight leg is increasing in importance.

Shorter collars earmark the sport shirt. Pure linen, a linen look and linen-cotton blends will offer texture. Western shirts with snap fasteners are popular. Silhouettes are big, as seen in the camp shirt that offers a big body with a pajama collar.

The one immutable rule -- jump suits will not be seen in '79



For casual chic Lee Wright mixes sportswear and tailored clothing in different textures. Clay and sand color nubby weave single-breasted jacket is blend of silk and wool. White overlap v-neck cotton chenille "pull" has banded waist and cuffs. Saks Fifth Avenue, Hudson's.



The ultimate for summer evenings, says Calvin Klein, is his taupe satin finished silk crepe de chine or charmeuse crew neck button front shirt with taupe pleated linen trousers. Add pigskin belt with double ring buckle, and roll up the sleeves for casual elegance. Hudson's, Boardroom, Doug Hoffman.

Don Robbie's classic unconstructed look comes in cotton blend twill blazer with bone buttons. The single breasted, ventless jacket is completely unlined and unpadded, with patch pockets at both breast and hips. Jeans and bare feet complete dressed down look. Saks Fifth Avenue, Lord & Taylor.



Austin Reed of Regent Street offers silk backed up by polyester and wool. The pattern is a blend of khaki, blue, red and grey on a cream background. Argyle Shop.



Iridescent linen suit with strong shoulders and narrow leg pant is by Bill Kalserman for Rafael. With it he teams iridescent shirt, grape chintz tie and pumpkin pocket square. Me & My Lady, Tweed's.