



That unusual black evening dress you've been seeking could be created just for you by designer Betty Baga.



the fashion plate  
**Rustle Shand**

## Designer brings us taste of Europe

European couture in Southfield? Exactly! Five stories up, overlooking the 1,536 freeway, sits an exclusive designing enterprise under the direction of Betty Baga.

A little over 10 years ago, Ms. Baga, a trained fashion designer, was bidding her time as an airline stewardess for the Romanian airlines, dreaming of coming to America.

It was one of her flights that she met Emanuel Ungaro. The chance meeting that bloomed into a friendship offered Betty Baga the opportunity to meet and mingle with French and Italian couture designers. Eventually, the association with the European couturiers, led to her marriage to Europe's top male fashion model, Robert Guem, who now commutes from Southfield to Europe to model the collections of Yves St. Laurent, Ungaro and Chloé.

While living in Paris, Ms. Baga also became a good friend of Hermes who periodically still attempts to coax her back to Europe where he wants to make her a member of his design staff.

MS. BAGA'S dream of coming to America reached fruition about 10 years ago when she landed in New York. Almost immediately, she became a staff member of a designer shop in New York — a job that took her to Europe frequently for editing of the designer collections.

Detroit and a job as custom designer for Walter's, a women's high fashion shop located on the Avenue of Fashions, beckoned.

"Dolly Brown and Mignon Kraft were my first clients," she said. "My reputation spread and soon I became in demand. Again, I traveled to Europe for the seasonal showings and to purchase one-of-a-kind fabrics."

Ms. Baga continues today, designing original gowns for area women to wear

for evening galas. But, she is also commissioned to design original models for specialty shops in New York and Paris.

Recognizing the demand for well-made, flattering clothing, she is branching out locally as well. She will create the perfect little black dinner dress for the modest price of \$150 to \$250, depending on the choice of fabric. Imagine having that the elusive little black dress that everybody talks about but nobody can seem to find — created especially for you.

And that's not all. She also will create a perfectly-tailored gabardine suit for around \$350.

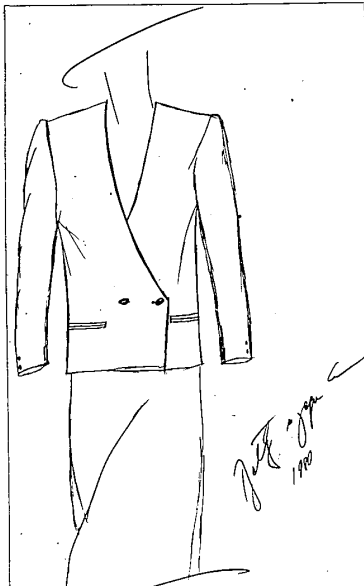
GOWNS FOR fabulous evenings will cost between \$300 and \$450, depending on the choice of fabric. This is where the real art form comes into the fashion picture. Once the fabric has been selected, Ms. Baga designs a gown interpreting the fabric to enhance both the design of the fabric and the client's figure.

Her fabric selections are unbelievably beautiful. Original fabrics from Europe mingle with exotic brocades from South Africa. The brocades are a whisper of fabric — as light as a feather, yet opulent with gold beads, embroidered in color or golds and silvers.

The European silks are stunning in graphics. The hand-painted silk chiffons are like a spring flower garden. Bolts of silken wool gabardines mingle with Egyptian brocades and English wools.

Ms. Baga's genius does not end with fabrics and designs, however. Her unerring sense of color and proportion comes into play when she advises clients on accessories for a total look.

Betty Baga's studio is No. 514, Franklin Park Towers, 2760 Franklin Road, Southfield. Phone 358-3516.



The tailored suit is a basic ingredient of any woman's wardrobe. Ms. Baga designs suits to fit her clients for approximately \$350.

### Parents-to-be invited to class

The Oakland County Health Division will offer expectant parent classes from 7:30-9:30 p.m. beginning March 11. Classes are scheduled for Monday,

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