



The Adolfo signature suit combines velvet, ruffled satin and braid-encrusted wool tweed.

# A winner

## Adolfo a clear favorite

Breathtaking. Sprinkled liberally with new touches, Adolfo's collection, 1980 doesn't miss a beat. The modest, diminutive designer couldn't ask for a better year.

Since Nancy Reagan is a particular fan of the Cuban-born American designer, a good portion of the fashion industry has posed the big question, "Will Adolfo become the First Lady's tailor?"

That's assuming a lot, of course. We don't know who the First Lady will be, but the assumption ends there. Adolfo is clearly emerging a favorite with a growing number of American women. His neat, precise, natural approach to fashion suits the temperament of the American woman with recognizable elegance.

Another plus in Adolfo's favor is that while his clientele has grown, so have the number and kinds of new styles he offers. His current collection includes such things as long-torso treatments, inventively patterned handknit sweaters, Hapsburg sil-

houettes, new jacket shapes, ruffled blouses, full velvet skirts and, for the evening, jet and rhinestone paved dresses.

"The collection expresses a totally classic and contemporary feeling for day," said Adolfo when he accompanied his collection to Saks Fifth Avenue.

"MY EVENING clothes evoke a 1930s feeling. They are reminiscent of 'Little Women' or Jenny Lind, was Adolfo's analysis.

The designer did not forget the past for his simple day wear. His straight chemises and smock dresses are both knitted in the signature flame-stitch pattern that first made him famous.

Adolfo's new jackets are cut like boleros; they impart a new sense of pinache to torso lines. Cut like colonial uniforms, some are loosely shaped like a Victorian combing jacket while others are more fitted.

Adolfo's famous boucle knit suits are designed in combinations of knit and silk jacquard. Others are combined with silk prints that use a Victorian flame-stitch needle point.

Janet Varner

Janet personally shops New York's Seventh Avenue each season, carefully editing each line, individually selecting each item.

She doesn't buy based on a computer or a Corporate directive. She buys on taste, her's and her customer's — often shopping Seventh Avenue with specific customers in mind.

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Stephen Cantrell

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