Osear de la Renta focuses this year on the jacket as the key to his Hapsburg-inspired fall collection. He believes, he said, this is a time for irresistible clothes. The more used they are, the more gallant and ornamental they will make a woman look and feel.

He made a festive outfit by teaming a red merino wool jacket with black passementerie embroidery to a softly pleated black velvet skirt. The ascot blouse in white crepe de chine is lace outlined.





Warming up for a gala evening, (left) the black taffeta ruffle skirted, black velvet bodice gown, \$110, from Walton Pierce. Valentino's black velvet evening suit trimmed on every edge with ruffled silk taffeta, \$990 at Claire Pearone. Also at Hattie, Inc. Note the shoes by Anne Klein, black suede pump with bronze kid ruffle at the side, Sandilar at Claire Pearone.

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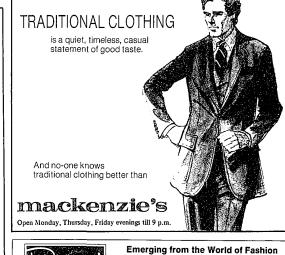


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