

## Perris interprets Spring

# Opt for Snow White purity

*a la mode*

Story: RUSTLE SHAND  
Photos: STEPHEN CANTRELL  
French couturier Bernard Perris wants his women to look pure, sophisticated and young. He manages this with whites sparked with silver beads, Snow White collars and culottes.

Perris also believes a woman's clothes should transcend the fashion of the moment. He achieves this by designing soft, easy-to-wear clothes that promise to be favorites for years to come.

He also believes a woman should have just a few pieces of clothing in her closet. And, he's successful at this too. It is difficult for many women who have been introduced to his fashions, even those on strict budgets, to forego, for example, spending a thousand dollars on one of his rain coats. His designs are so stunning, so flattering, that even a rain poncho becomes a piece of art.

Perris, who once designed for Dior, brought his entire spring, summer collection to Claire Pearene's Somerset Mall shop recently where it drew the same rave reviews it received earlier from the Paris fashion press.

"Very beautiful." "Very sophisticated." "Very refreshing to the eye." These were only a few of the comments overheard when the collection was presented locally.

PERRIS sums up his collection as "pure."

"Most of this collection is white because I am fed up with certain brash colors and too many prints. When you have had it with that, you go to white because it washes your eye," he said.

There is sophistication in his long torso silks with blouses or pleats at the hem. "It seems everybody who wears it achieves the quintessence of fashion of the time," he added.

Perris' ability to "put into each dress a little bit of eternity" is what consistently earns him such accolades.

"It is not my idea for a woman to wear my dress for one season. If she falls in love with it, she will wear it for many years," he said.

THE CULOTTE personifies "young" to Perris. "Culottes can be very straight, very wide, long or short," he said. "They lighten the silhouettes and can be worn with everything — blouses, capes or jackets.

"The culotte makes a woman look much younger," he said. "A lot younger — it takes 10 years off her appearance. The woman does not feel the same. She walks another way. She stands another way with the culottes."

The designer's jackets also lend a youthful narrow look to the body. Shoulders are inset in a very narrow position on the body, making the body look very thin and giving importance to the arm.

Perris' white lace gowns were a focus of admiring attention. "The Culotte lace," he said, "is all handmade in Switzerland." Difficult to describe, the intricate tatting used in making the

lace resembles small pearls. Observers have to look closely to realize it is indeed lace.

FURTHER extending the look of purity in his collection, Perris added what he calls "The little Cure group," choir-boy capes with culottes of pure silk. He has also revived the "A" shape for day-time culotte suits.



Perris interprets spring and summer in white and black silk, with pleated skirt, black camisole and matching print blouse. The talented designer visited recently, bringing his entire collection to Claire Pearene at Somerset Mall.



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For a change Perris interprets evening in shades of white. Another new touch is the Snow White collar.

## Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

### Date Lines

It's a sure thing. Unless he or she is under the age of six or a confirmed recluse, everyone on your Christmas list is bound to need a calendar for the coming year. There are hundreds of interesting, beautiful or cute ones on the market. For school girls, the Nancy Drew Date Book (\$2.95) includes pages for recording class schedules, upcoming sports events, class parties, after-school activities and vacation dates. The MacMillan Children's Calendar (\$4.95) is loaded with puzzles, games, mazes and oodles of information on just about any subject you can think of.

Metro News Center, Maple at Telegraph, Birmingham, 851-7121.



### Peanuts and Popcorn

The Sports Trivia 1981 calendar (\$5) ought to serve as a good daily fix for the sports addicts in your life. There is an item of sports trivia for every single day of the year. For example, on June 14, he (or she?) will discover that "A Nolan Ryan pitch was once clocked at 100.9 mph." The Movie Fan's Calendar (\$4.95) is full of wonderful movie-related trivia, also one item for each day of the year. And, each monthly page is topped by a large black-and-white still photo from a famous old movie.

Rialto, 217 S. Woodward, Birmingham, 642-2230.



### Cookies and Puzzles

For the person who loves cookies, how about Cookies '81 (\$7.95)? Beside each weekly page, you will find delectable colored photographs of cookies from all over the world, plus some interesting facts about their origins. Recipes for the cookies are also included. Then there is the "Puzzling Through 1981" (\$4.95) which features a never-before-published crossword puzzle for each week of the year.

Bookpeople: Orchard Mall, West Bloomfield, 851-9150, and Prudential Town Center, Southfield, 358-4646.



### Women's Writes

P.S. Stationery has a charming calendar for ladies. The white cover is personalized with the words, "A calendar for 1981 for (recipient's name) from (donor's name)." The words are written in beautiful calligraphy. Each monthly page is of opaque white paper. The days of the week, the month and that month's holidays are written in calligraphy. Beneath each monthly page, blank sheets of construction paper are inserted in such yummy shades as stocking pink, mint green, lilac and baby blue. The colored construction paper serves two purposes. It gives each opaque monthly sheet a lovely pastel hue and it allows its owner to write extra notes and reminders on the blank page.

P.S. Stationery, 335-0989 or 626-7916.

