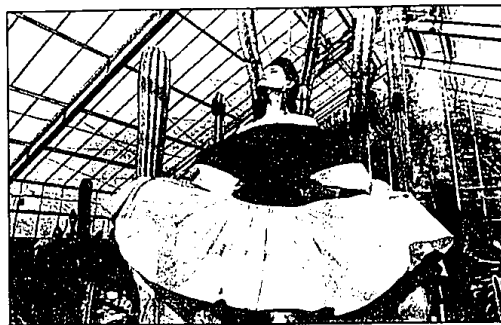




RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Scassi's watered silk and lime green background with floral print and double crinoline skirt, \$1,450. Roz & Sherm.



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Alistair Blair's romantic entrance maker in black and canary yellow silk, \$2,239. Madelaine.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Louis Feraud's red sheer wool, shaped coat dress, \$540. Jacobson's.

Evening dazzle

FOR THE first time in years, French couture has turned its bared back on floor-length bouffant ball gowns. Dresses are short and sassy, often with puffs and bows and swags of fabric drawn higher over one hip. And sexy as possible.

Bosoms are emphasized. Fabrics hug curves like Italian race cars. Waists are snug, hips rounded, legs glorified.

According to Vogue magazine, "Never has evening dressing been more ornamental or more colorful. Effects achieved with short dresses, with short-in-front, long-in-back dresses, even with elaborately designed body suits and short skirts. What continues — obviously — the theme of short in all its many variations."

ASAP has taken on a new meaning — As Short as Possible.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Emanuel Ungaro's silk prints. Left is his pastel print wrap dress from Hattie, \$2,300. On the right is his white cabbage rose silk taffeta puff, \$4,300. Saks Fifth Avenue.

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