

Cooling off beneath the waterfall is Dorian Hayes in a Bill Blass white nylon body suit with western-style fringe from the Bobette Shop. Tracey Peters wears a tropical print suit by Rose Marie, also from the Bobette Shop, while Mark Zartarian opts for Fila's no-drip nylon boxer-style trunks from Mr. Alan's Sport Connection.



A Simply Sizzling Summer

By Charlene Mitchell
special writer

The robins are back. Baseball season is about to open. Can summer . . . for that matter can hot weather be far behind?

And hot — make that H-O-T — is the word for swimwear this season and rave is the word for the designers who have obviously unleashed their talents to come up with some of the most exciting new looks to grace the beach and poolside in years.

One-piece suits are the rage, with heavy Spandex fabrics to help conceal less than perfect tummies and fannies. Western-style fringes and colorful sequins are also adding a fresh kind of pizzazz to basic tank-style swimsuits.

And in keeping with the mood of the nation, patriotic designs and colors are due out this spring.

"We're expecting some gorgeous red, white and blue suits as well as some with peace symbols," said Annie Frank, buyer for Roz & Sherm. "It's kind of '60s-ish in a way."

Harriet Dunsky, owner of the Bobette Shop in Pontiac is one of many retailers who is glad to see this year's swimsuits are more suited to the average body.

"Most of us aren't built like the models who pose for these suits in fashion magazines," she said. "When my customers try on a swimsuit, they're easily discouraged when they can't find one that is flattering."

Styles for women gracing the racks this season include designer Dewees's hot pink Lycra tank suit with a sequined V-shaped insert and Bill Blass's white nylon V-neck body suit with western-style fringe.

Rose Marie has designed a tropical floral print suit with molded bra, while Moschino lets everyone on the beach know your wearing his grape-colored nylon body suit with red accents, thanks to its wide black-and-white lettering at the waistline.

And for a provocative look, Gideon Oberson has come up with a one-piece gold lame suit with molded cups.

Swimwear for men rarely changes styles except for colors and patterns. This season, the H-O-T look seems to be exotic African motif-style prints and combination solid neon colors with assorted emblems.

Fila, the popular tennis wear manufacturer, has an extensive line of men's boxer-style trunks available at several shops, including Mr. Alan's Sport Connection on the Boardwalk in West Bloomfield.

According to fashion consultant Bluma Seigel, another popular beach/pool look is two-piece suit sets.

"They're really great because the bottoms can be worn as trunks or shorts, along with the matching shirt and nobody really knows that the bottoms are all lined and suitable for the water," she said.

Unlike the past couple of seasons, not many stores are carrying "Jams," the long mid-thigh style swim trunks, and save for those die-hard exhibitionist types, sales of the teeny-weeny style trunks are a thing of the past.

Street Scene's fourth annual swimsuit edition was a collective effort, featuring the work of staff photographer Jerry Zolynsky and writer Charlene Mitchell. The locale — an indoor pool with a manmade waterfall and jacuzzi — was provided by the Elbert Hatfield of Bloomfield Hills. Swimwear fashions and accessories were by Roz & Sherm of Birmingham, Mr. Alan's Sport Connection of West Bloomfield, Birmingham and Southfield, and the Bobette Shop of Pontiac.

Hairstyles were by Adria Bircoll of Ron-Daniel Salon in Farmington Hills, and makeup was by Vicki Johnson of the Tamara Institute DeBeaute, also in Farmington Hills.



Photos by JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff

Soaking up the heat in the jacuzzi, Kenya Moore wears a nylon body suit from Moschino from Roz & Sherm. Meanwhile, Vickie Johnston lounges poolside in a gold lame one-piece suit by Gideon Oberson, also from Roz & Sherman.