

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 1996

8A(F)

SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACK

New Ethan Allen has 'easy' designs

For those of you who are anxiously awaiting the opening of the new Ethan Allen home furnishings store in downtown Birmingham, here's a preview of what you will find when the gallery debuts next month.

Ethan Allen's new '96 designs focus on relaxed formality, comfort and style. Premiering this season is the Regent's Park collection, a neoclassic look updated for today's lifestyles.

Crafted in solid cherry with selected decorative veneers, Regent's Park derives its design from the Regency and Federal periods, and features an abundance of details such as reeded bed posts, fluted pilasters with carved motifs and tapered legs with brass casters. As lovely and delicate as



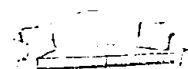
Somerset
around an over-tufted slipcovered sofa in vintage velvet.

The brass accents are lightly antiqued and the cherry is given a warm sheen, further enhancing the line's livability.

Highlights from the Regent's Park collection include the spiral post bed and headboard, the leather-tufted writing table and the china cabinet and buffet with its carved coral and geometric doors.

Easy chairs

Also new for spring, five sofa and eight chair silhouettes add depth to Ethan Allen's Comfort Collection. The Berkshire Sofa features an elegant camelback design updated with deep seating, pilated arms and a dressmaker skirt. Two lofty down pillows soften the tight back of this classic. The Litchfield has a tufted silhouette with extra-plush tufting and a tall skirt.



Berkshire

The Monterey Sofa (my favorite) has a slipcover look with dressmaker detailing and a flared tufted arm, while the Manchester personifies the new relaxed look in leather seating. Finally, the Somerset is for those wanting the comfort of highback upholstery. Comfort Collection chairs range from the fresh look of the Saybrook wingback with its inverted pleat and button-tub closures to the sculptural Courtland and its dramatic sophisticated lines. For pure comfort, have a seat in the Savannah, an oversized highback design.

Future finds

And what are the color trends for Spring/Summer '96? According to Ethan Allen interior designers, look for color-infused neutrals like soft gray blues and taupe, creamy hues and grayed greens. For warmth, consider muted greens and browned reds in nature-inspired motifs.

Familiar jewel tones are updated with a vibrant deep purple and accented with old gold in jacquards, plaids and stripes for a sense of Old World elegance.

Bring the garden indoors with wood rose, pale gold, willow green and ivory. Soft sage, periwinkle and deep redwood add a romantic feeling. Finally, the charm of country life by the sea is evident in the colors of Provence. Sunshine yellows and ocean blues are accented with ochre, red and deep aqua.

I'll take the Monterey Sofa in an ivory vintage velvet and the Saybrook wing chair in a soft rose, aqua and periwinkle faded floral. Now for the bedroom...

Linda Bachrack is a resident of Birmingham. She welcomes merchandise information to share with readers and retail ideas for her column. Call her at (313) 953-2047, mailbox 1889, or send a fax to (810) 644-1314.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Malls & Mainstreets next week:

- A major mall reveals its renovation plans.
- Visit a shop that replaces broken china treasures.
- Retail Details briefs you on the latest marketplace news.

For timeless fashion hand it to the glove



What can you never have enough of because they tend to get lost or left behind? OK, umbrellas, is a good guess. But, today we're talking gloves. Read on to explore the myths and legends surrounding that humble clothing item, the glove.

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO
Staff Writer

Historically, the craft of glove making was known as a noble profession. Kings would send their gloves by messenger to acknowledge an invitation to an event they could not personally attend.

Knights wore gloves to protect their wrists in falconry.

The fastidious Beau Brummell kept a special man to make only the thumb of his gloves, proclaiming that "a perfect gentleman changes his gloves at least six times a day."

Aristocrats used their gloves to slap each other across the face, dueling over the slightest infractions. In the 16th century, Catherine de Medici, queen consort of Henry II of France, made glove-wearing fashionable for women. The practice became a social requirement that lasted through the 19th century, some would argue longer, to the end of World War II.

Today, gloves are pulled on mostly for winter warmth, boxing, and gardening. The fast-paced lifestyles of the '90s leave little time for fooling with fashion foppery. Yet, it's hard to dismiss the elegance and style of a gent wearing leather driving gloves, a lady in elbow-length silk evening gloves, or a little one in snowflake-patterned mittens.

"Gloves are making a huge comeback," according to Karen Dakas at Tender in downtown Birmingham. "Think Audrey, Grace or Jackie, all

naturals at wearing gloves. Like handbags, shoes and jewelry, they finish a look." (And recall what Michael Jackson single-handedly did for the short, white glove.)

Tender carries a large selection of gloves by "Glovemaker to the Stars," Daniel Storto. He's designed hand coverings for Joan Collins, Claudia Schiffer, Cher and Goldie Hawn.

At Saks Fifth Avenue this winter, shoppers will find gloves in many lengths, materials and colors. The most popular are satins, velvets, cottons and leathers in one, two, and three-button styles.

"It's a good year for buying gloves," said Chickie Fayne of Farmington Hills who works in the accessories department. "There are so many designs to choose from, everything from multi-colored suedes to mink-cuffed leathers."

Hudson's fashion director M. J. Burns is a big fan of glove-wearing which she was delighted to promote in the fall Fashion Bash show.

"Wearing gloves for style is beginning to be seen again," she said. "But it's a trend that will be around for a while. It's simply, so chic."

Among the gloves it carries, Hudson's features the Portolano line which has been around since its Naples, Italy beginning in 1895. The company was the pioneer of the Italian glove exporters, selling leather gloves to the U.S. and Great Britain as early as 1911. Portolano was a leading name in glove manufacturing



PHOTOS BY MAUREN ELETTRA MONTE

Glamour gloves: Elaine Bitterman of Bloomfield Hills has some fun modeling white silk gloves with fur cuffs from Saks Fifth Avenue in the Somerset Collection.

during the period of World War I and II. Today, factories in Italy and the Philippines ship gloves throughout the world.

In its company biography, Portolano points out that making leather gloves "is an art." Only the true patrons know the value of fourchettes (the side pieces of the fingers which are shaped for comfort, fit and graceful appearance), monogramming (the opening at the wrist on a formal glove, 16-22 buttons in length, which is fastened with small buttons to enable the wearer to remove her hand while keeping the glove on), and cords (classic, precision marked embroidery on the back of a glove that simulates bones on the back of your hand).

Leather gloves may be made from the skins of pigs, sheep, lambs and goats. However the name is not always derived from the kind of skin from which the glove is made. Kid gloves may be made from lambskin and doeskin gloves are made from sheepskin.

Modern technology has produced new glove materials for the marketplace like polar fleece, thinulate, nylon, microfiber polyesters and synthetic down. Outdoor enthusiasts layer their gloves, adding liners and water-repellent shells. Gauntlet cuffs return to protect the forearms from cold and snow in the same way they once protected knights in armor from the lance of a foe.

How gloves are made
According to Compton's Encyclo-

pedia, glove making became an industry in 1834 when Xavier douvin of Grenoble, France invented a cutting die that made a glove of precise fit possible. A leather glove consists of eight parts: palm and back (leg, piece); thumb; three fourchettes; and three quirts, diamond-shaped pieces inserted between the fingers. Most stitching is done by machine, though some is done by hand. The glove is then dampened, tumbled on a heated metal model hand, and buffed.

It was once said, "there are only three people you should greet with bare hands: the Pope, the President, and that rare person who is your very best friend. The rest of the world gets to wait on you!"



The gloves are off. Sure, they're deep jewel tones, makes a simple driving glove for men and women.

How to find your glove size

A glove size is equal to the measurement of the circumference of the widest part of the hand around the knuckles excluding the thumb, and rounded up to the nearest whole or half number.

Leather and cotton gloves are usually sized as such:

LADIES

In half and whole sizes from 6 to 9

Small: 6 to 6 1/2

Medium: 7 to 7 1/2

Large: 8 to 8 1/2

Extra Large: 9 to 9 1/2

MEN'S

In half and whole sizes from 7 1/2 to 10

Small: 7 1/2 to 8

Medium: 8 to 9

Large: 9 to 10

Extra Large: 10 1/2 to 11

- Courtesy of the Portolano Co.

Glove lessons mother never taught you!

The warmest gloves are down-filled mittens.

Thermal skin gloves are not as warm, but are less bulky than down-filled mittens.

Mittens are always warmer than gloves because fingers can heat each other.

Italian kidskin makes the softest and most luxurious gloves.

Lambskin shearings are warm, but costly.

For moderate cold, cashmere-lined kid gloves are warmer and longer-lasting than fur-lined.

- Catherine Gould, The Fashion Encyclopedia

THOMAS GREENSTAFF ARTIST

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

ing lunch at Stage & Co. Boardwalk, Orchard Lake/Maple, West Bloomfield. (810) 655-6622

THURSDAY, JAN. 25

COSMETIC CONSULTATIONS

Claires offers complimentary skin care lessons and mini facials through Jan. 27 at Saks Fifth Avenue. Call for an appointment. Somerset Collection, Big Beaver/Coolidge, Troy. (810) 643-9000, ext. 261.

GARDEN SHOW

Mail wedge home and garden show, plus sidewalk sales to liquidate winter merchandise through Jan. 28. Also on Jan. 27, a children's performance "No Veggie For Me," 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on stage near Crowley's. Livonia Mall, Seven Mile/Middlebelt. (810) 476-1166.

FRIDAY, JAN. 26

TRUNK SHOW

Horn's presents Zelda's spring collection 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Jan. 27. Past and skirt suits in colors coffee, coral and mushroom. Garments feature antique beading on simple lines and prints. Informal modeling at Horn's and Stage & Co. Restaurant both days. The Boardwalk, Orchard Lake, West Bloomfield. (810) 626-7776.

SATURDAY, JAN. 27

ICE FESTIVAL

Mall of the 4th annual winter festival through Jan. 28 with more than 75 sculptures, ice skating, concerts. Main Street, Downtown Midland. (810) 585-7129.

CHILDREN'S SHOW

Marc Thomas and Max the Moose perform an in-

teractive concert for families, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Center court. Free! Come early for the best seats. Tel. Twelve Mall, 12 Mile/Telegraph, Southfield. (810) 353-4111.

SEWING LESSON

Haberman Fabrics hosts Lynn McCulloch demonstrating how to create window treatments using Gossing methods. Seminar covers basic measuring and sewing techniques, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$15. Store is offering many other sewing classes through Jan. and Feb. Call for details. 117 West Fourth, Royal Oak. (810) 541-0010.

CONCERT CAFE

Panel Bess Bonner performs 1:30 p.m. Fashions are informally modeled from Land & Sea, The Limited, and Petite Sophisticate. Free coffee sampling courtesy of The Coffee Beanery. Laurel Park Place, Six Mile/Newburgh, Livonia. (313) 462-1700.

HEALTH TESTS

American Heart Association offers free blood pressure screenings, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Near Montgomery Ward. Woodward Mall, Plymouth/Middlebelt, Livonia. (313) 522-4100.

BRIDAL FAIR

Hudson's annual "A Marriage of Style," 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fashion show, brunch at Northfield Hilton, various wedding experts speak on related topics, interviews with manufacturers' representatives, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Complimentary bus shuttle. Tickets \$15. Reservations required. Oakland Mall, 14 Mile/John R. Troy. (810) 443-6332.

SUNDAY, JAN. 28

SUPERBOOK SUNDAY

Bovine hosts an alternative to the football game for the family. A campfire in the cafe with folk artists David Fols, Janet Krist and Tim Diaz 2-4 p.m. Complimentary. 32009 Orchard Lake, Farmington Hills. (810) 737-0110.