

Spring 1976 styles: muted and slimmer

By CHRISTINE WALDEN

NEW YORK—One of the most startling aspects of spring '76 is the fact that spring '75 is completely out the window.

Contrary to last spring's bright colors and billowing shapes, forthcoming warm weather gear appears in more muted, almost drab shades, and slimmer, trimmer silhouettes. And though the changes take some getting used to, they are, in some ways, improvements, stressing femininity through shapes rather than ruffles.

The silhouette is probably the most important change.

Those who keep track of fashion's frequent switches won't be surprised to see fall's vest/skirt and fanny-wrapping looks continue for spring.

Lines that begin and end at the derriere draw attention to that part of the body.

FOR EXAMPLE, pleated skirts are stitched down to the hip or a bit higher. Many skirts are pencil-thin and kick-pleated—lines that can't help but draw attention to the fanny.

If the skirt doesn't do it, the top will. Blouses either stop at the waist or drop to the hip. That drop-waist blouse look is also repeated in dresses, often hip-tied rather than waist-tied.

Oscar de la Renta, for example, designed a caftan with a hip-slung belt—which effectively blouses the top, slims the bottom and accentuates the fanny. His treatment may be a key to updating last spring's wardrobe of big dresses—just tie the belt around the hip instead of the waist.

Spring's other important silhouette is a return to an hourglass shape. As vests, skirts and blouses team up, interest is paid to the waist, since vests tend to contour and create optical illusions.

THE BLAZERS are also fitted—wider at the shoulders and thinner at the waist.

The Anne Klein & Co designs of this shape are excellent. Vest, skirt and blazers are all perfectly proportioned. Calvin Klein also creates clean lines with his vest and suit ensembles. The slimmer lines carry into night, often becoming sleeker and sexier.

In fact, evening is definitely more skin-showing and daring than daytime will ever be.

Strapless matte jersey blouses

over skirts of the same; one-shoulder straight-line gowns or a tube-shaped chiffon paired with floating bat-wing sleeves, as in the design of Albert Capraro.

The strong look and its body-hugging shape is also important, as is a resurgence of plunging necklines and a lot of leg seen via side slits. Though spring silhouettes are cleaner, leaner and crisper, they will also be harder to maintain.

Last spring it was standard to hide extra pounds beneath big dresses and tops. Now, though the clothes themselves create shape, it will help enormously to have a good figure on which to put them.



The Capraro caftan typifies the breezy, gauzy look that will be popular this spring.



Anne Klein's blazer is designed to fit with brimmed hat and light slacks for a sophisticated-sporty look.

a la mode



The Oscar De La Renta caftan is worn slipped from the shoulders for an alluring evening effect. (New York photos by staff photographer Barbara McClellan)

Small head styles Spring

Spring 1976 fashions are feminine and supple, and so are its hair styles. The harsh tailoring and ponderous layering of past seasons are on the wane. Instead, silhouettes are softer and slimmer and are calling for a small head that makes a fashion statement.

Hair is shorter, simpler, more relaxed. So are wigs. Ours range from variations on the Oriental tack, relaxed curls framing the face, to soft wind-blown versions just skimming the shoulder.

None of the styles are rigid or contrived. They are geared to work with pared-down fashion in a real world.

THE EVER-RISING popularity of active sports is a consideration hair stylists and wig manufacturers are taking more seriously.

A new short Elura wig by Morsanto is a mass of head-hugging curls, and so lightweight that it works on the courts and in the clubhouse afterwards.

Another cut that creates a smooth, oval head is slightly tossed in front, designed to go beautifully with collared shirts for a sleek, on-the-go warm weather look.

For pared-down daytime layering, new versions of the China Chop take to the small head.

ONE STYLE cuts into the face just below the ears. The bangs are worn straight and center, combed to the side or flipped back with the aid of a curling iron.

Tapering at the neck enhances the contour of the chin.

Dramatic head-wrapping styles are also part of the spring, 1976 look.

Often the hair or wig is wound around a braid of colorful scarves to enhance jump suits or ethnic-oriented tunics over vests.

WEAR-DATED wigs with a wind-blown look wrapped with a scarf are the answer on rainy days when real hair collapses.

As for evening, the small head, smoothed and sleek, dominates the scene.

Gauzy, floppy fabrics frame the sophisticated head which is softened by curly bangs or a chignon.

Shoulder-length hair is pulled sleekly back and tucked at the nape of the neck to give a graceful line to the total evening ensemble and spotlight dramatic ears and neck jewelry.

The small head styles tuck neatly into any variety of hats from the sun visor on the tennis court, to the brimmed rain and sun hats to sophisticated berets.

Best of all, the styles are designed for easy care. With food cuts and permas for curly styles, epileps can be limited to washes and towel or blow drys.



This light Elura wig by Schiaparelli hugs the head and goes beautifully with spring knits as well as with active sportswear.

Suede fashions modeled

An exclusive showing of genuine suede fashions by designer Shirely Willet will take place at Hinebrook's on Birmingham's Family Night, Monday (Dec. 1) from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

This collection is a first in Detroit by Ms. Willet, a former Samuel Roberts designer. Her collection encompasses a full range of dressing for day and after dark.

The collection features numerous styles, including coats, skirts, jackets, wrap tops, halters and dresses. All can be coordinated into a total wardrobe.

The collection includes a number of unusual styles such as a floor-length skirt that is pieced in a spider-web design, and a suede wrap top with wool sleeves.

An informal modeling of the collection will take place Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hinebrook's in Birmingham.

Make this a Skiing Christmas

with special gifts for your favorite skiers from Bavarian Village.

Choose vividly colored sweaters and matching turtle-necks to coordinate with the newest jackets.

Top it all off with a matching ski hat, brightly striped or strikingly solid.



And we have a complete assortment of ski goggles and glasses — the popular mirrored lens with frames in all colors.



Skiers want gloves or mitts to complete their look — whether pro or beginner! We have every color, style and price range to choose from.



Make this a skiing Christmas — at Bavarian Village. Use your BankAmericard, Master Charge, Diners or American Express.



For a complete fashion picture — ski and boots! The new, beautifully designed boots and ski provide a totally coordinated look. The Nordica Lady Elite, for example, combines beautiful styling with warmth and comfort. In colors to match your skiwear: Galaxy Blue, Sky Blue, Green and Yellow.



Bavarian Village

Michigan's Largest Ski & Skwear Selection

BIRMINGHAM
BLOOMFIELD HILLS
LATHRUP VILLAGE

101 Townsend, across from Hughes-Hatcher
2740 Woodward at Square Lake Rd.
28645 Southfield south of 12 Mile

644-5950
338-0803
559-2360

Open Evenings Til 9, including Sat. Closed Sunday