

The good...



the bad...



...and the really ugly



(Photographed in New York by staff photographer Barbara McClellan)

Sant' Angelo covers fashion gamut

By CHRISTINE WALDEN

Fashion has a tendency to range from the sublime to the ridiculous, but how Giorgio Sant'Angelo managed to include both in one collection is anyone's guess.

For spring '76 Sant'Angelo, best known for his ribbon-and-lace designs or brightly beaded jerseys, does everything, and most of it is very strange and extremely theatrical.

They are not the clothes to be seen in, though if you wear them you certainly will be noticed.

The collection spends much time reflecting Far Eastern, Middle Eastern, African and Indian designs. Many of the hand-painted prints are beautiful and acceptably exotic. The fabrics are simple in cotton and jersey, and he incorporates several fresh and unusual ideas.

One in particular is an ancient method of twist-pleating cotton. The results are exciting and constitute some of his best designs, including a black, bare-shouldered evening dress edged with pink and green ribbons, or a big top over a big skirt.

Also on the best list is Sant'Angelo's version of the blouse look, his with spaghetti straps, low back and a long, side-slit skirt.

His skin-tight lycra gowns may also show up this spring. And it is more the design he puts on the fabric than the shape that makes these gowns interesting. While beads arranged in an Indian motif on black or shades of rose, and beige appliques on white are just two of the many ways he dresses up the gowns.

However, those body-hugging

dresses are only terrific if your figure is

AFTER THAT it's downhill. Sant'Angelo's harem look, as he showed it in New York, is absurd. It would take guts to wear the ensembles, and it's hard to imagine where to wear them—other than in a harem.

Most of the harem pants are pleated, hip slung and paired with bandeau tops. They bare a lot of skin and are accessorized with huge cords of twisted fabric worn either around the neck or head. There were also a few too many gold coins clinking on the edge of shawls, waistlines or head wraps.

Further, his Indian-inspired designs, while perfect for a powwow, simply won't do anywhere else. Fringed, edged, cut-out and hand-knit, most looked a little too sacky for the sophisticated women.

THEN THERE were the designs for day. Sticking strictly to cotton, Sant'Angelo's layered-tunic look left something to be desired.

Kimono went over waist-cinched tunics which went over pants that were tucked into wool socks.

And the Foreign Legion look of laced boots with white rolled pants under a long and bloomy coat just didn't click.

Sant'Angelo's designs, though original and obviously creative, simply aren't wearable. While he may have outdone himself artistically, he has short-changed himself by offering looks that can hardly be adapted and probably won't be accepted by the women that can afford his designs.

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