

COOL

One thing you can be sure of: summer fashion will be cool and airy. The energy crisis that had us turning down the thermostat and bundling up in cold weather now is going to restrict the use of air conditioners.

Cool will be in, but how can we worry when cool is so beautiful this year?

From all indications, the designers are ready for the spring and summer version of the energy crisis. They'll have us, like our European sisters, stripping down for the heat and dressing accordingly.

Sundresses, halters, cutouts, see-throughs, even

shorts seem to make sense reports Ruth Davidson of Davidson's in Birmingham.

Perhaps that's why all the New York collections stress the natural fibres like cotton, loosely woven "dish-cloth" fabrics, filmy gauzes and anything that "breathes." And everywhere we hear buyers asking for those loose sundresses like the ones worn in the south of France last summer.

Probably because they are cooler than pants, all manner of cotton skirts have assumed a new importance. Softer, fuller dirndls, front or back wraps and slim skirts slit front and aft—all are in the picture.

They come in bright colors and every kind of (Continued on Page 32)



Short and bare sundresses from France offer a fashion-right choice when the mercury soars and the air-conditioning gets turned off.

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