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Stripes for sportswear was one of the themes of Kasper's spring collection showing, as on the four lovely models at left who showed just how many ways a stripe can run. Kasper, who predicts no fashion revolutions, took to the microphone (right) to talk about fashion themes for spring and for always. Overriding every other fashion nuance was the idea of softness that permeated the Kasper collection in fabric, color and line. Below are two Kasper designs in the soft, creamy colors he favors, which show the latest trends toward rolling up sleeves, short jackets and rope belts to delineate the waist. Also to be noted are the small and rounded collars favored this season.



A picture of Spring 1978 is this model wearing a full, but not thick-looking skirt with thin belt, two layers of softly striped blouses with small collar and the sleeves rolled.

Spring's fashion scenario puts the accent on the softest dressing



(Above) Two softly tailored dresses underscore the message that the dress is really back and often with a short jacket to top it. (Below) The palest tints in silky fabrics tell the softness tale for Kasper.



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What turns designer Kasper on? "Change," he says. "That's the whole fun of fashion and life."

The designer expert of what milady should wear and how was in Southfield last Wednesday to commentate on a showing of his newest spring fashions. The Kasper show was put on by Hudson's at Congregation Shaare Zedek for the Michigan Region of Women's American ORT.

The afternoon honored members of ORT, whose affiliation makes possible the support of hundreds of schools, technical and vocational, in Israel and other countries. Mrs. Maxine Pomerantz of Southfield is president of the group.

Though it's change that turns the designer on, Kasper was quick to explain that women shouldn't expect drastic fashion changes in the near future.

"I am not speaking of change in a frivolous or a fickle sense at all," he said. "I'm speaking of the fineness of change, of subtle little things like wearing new colors and adding new touches."

Fashion design is life to lithe, lean, dark-haired Kasper who confessed he has wanted to design women's clothes since he was a small boy.

"YOU DON'T talk about wanting to be a fashion designer when you're a small boy, but the idea was always there," he said. "Then when I was 16, I went to an art school."

Kasper went on to several other art schools including the prestigious Parsons School of Design and studied also in Europe.

If change turns him on, his spring designs turned on the several hundred ORT women who viewed them on Wednesday.

With Brenda Rosenberg, fashion director of Hudson's, Kasper talked about the newest of the new as a group of the area's topflight models showed how the clothes work on the body and in motion.

If spring has a theme, it is "softness." And softness means blurry lightness in color, fabric and glide.

"These are clothes that glide and drift over the body," Ms. Rosenberg commented.

Colors like cream, peachy beige and soft caramel dominated the collection

from sport to evening.

"This year what's important is the mixing of things," Kasper said. "The adventure of the clothes is what to layer on what, what accessories to accentuate with."

He emphasized that dresses are truly back but the aware woman has to know what to add in terms of accessories to be up with fashion.

"The whole suit look is becoming more important," he said. "But the great part of fashion is that you have options."

DOUBLE SKIRTS and rolled-up sleeves, in fact rolled up pants too, are some of the new accents that distinguish fashion 1978 and shout "today."

Kasper did a group of knits in silk with nubby textures, mostly in neutral tones and also uses gauze-like fabrics in combination with cottons and knits. Other fabric favorites include crepe de chine, also soft.

Positive accents include rope and wood belts and a distinct turn to the vest. Tunics remain important and go to all lengths: some are belted, some belted to a casual blouson and some simply fall free.

Soft suits with a new-looking unconstructed blazer were shown in pounce, one a subtle beige and gray combination.

"I don't think color nor even fabric has a season anymore," Kasper said. "There's simply no distinction."

He pointed out that though skirts are full, even double, they are never "thick" looking.

A brighter color came in a grouping of clothes that were done up in vegetable colors, almost earth tones, bright but never harsh. Included were henna, ginger and terra cotta.

Small floral prints were received well and commentator Rosenberg noted that collars are smaller with rounded corners.

"The dress with its own sleeveless jacket is back and making an impact," she said. "And narrow pants are one of the incoming trends."

CLOTHES may move a bit closer to the body, Kasper predicted, but the attitude of softness and bigness will remain the same.

For Kasper as every designer, working today means working on what women will wear next fall. "When I get up in the morning, I always feel like I'm already behind," he quipped.



Clothes that drift softly over the body are this year's fashion trademark, as in this muted pastel print by Kasper.