Anne Klein designs (above and below) show the importance of the vest, and spring's overall feeling of easy dressing.

Vest does it all

Vests top it all off this spring.

They give new life to something old and they act as a wardrobe stretcher for new items.

Paired with a classic dress, a vest creates a whole new costume.

The vest is perhaps the single, most important and versatile fashion accessory of the spring-summer season.

Its versatility is endless -- it can be worn under a suit; with pants or skirts; with or without a blouse; and under or over a tunic.

Spring's vest is loose and unconstructed. Or it can be short and boxy, longer and flowing. The traditional menswear shape is still important or it can have notched lapels or shirring at the shoulders.

Vest fabrics include linen, silk, gauze, lightweight wools, baby soft suedes, brocades, laces, metallics or cotton -- giving you a choice appropriate for any time of the day or evening.