

Lisbeth's of Birmingham

Classic simplicity leads parade of fashion



By LORAIN McCLISH
John Malloy, author of "How to Dress for Success," would most certainly have put his stamp of approval on the parade of fashions put together by Lisbeth's of Birmingham as a benefit for Farmington Community Center last week.

Classic simplicity, with the basic neutrals to be dressed up and down, all with practical price tags, and the running commentary by Kay McClure giving easy-to-effect fashion tips, dominated the show.

"There is no limit to how high the slit in your skirt can go if you wear dark hose," Ms. McClure told the guests who filled Vladimir's Restaurant.

"Dark hose, mesh or textured or with seams, will bring you into the 1980s with last year's basic, just as long as you shorten the hem," she said.

"The rule for hem length is just below the knee. If you own a velvet blazer of any color, you can plan an entire wardrobe around it," she continued.

Her philosophy is to buy basics, mix and match, and "learn to use your clothes."

She suggests you bring out your old furs to wear, carry, wrap around your neck, re-fashion old pieces into collars or cuffs.

"Have a lot of accessories on hand, but as to jewelry, wear only your very best," she says.

MS. McCLURE left no doubt in anyone's mind that her favorite material is super-suede, the washable non-wrinkle fabric that has become the traveler's mainstay. The starting place was a solid neutral.

"Gray is the biggie this fall," she said, "though everyone should own at least one basic black, brown or navy."

Another biggie is the fur muff, and another is the small hat to adapt to the short, cropped hairdos.

The artificial flower, once predominant as an accessory, is now replaced with the feather.

But purple is still with us. Ms. McClure showed 11 shades of this color in the fall display, and many of them are considered neutral.

"Your biggest wardrobe investment should be shoes," Ms. McClure said, and they should match your outfit this season, replacing the old rule of matching shoes and bags.

"Wool is back," she continued, "but buy with care. Make sure it won't stretch or sit-out before you purchase anything wool because it is expensive."

THE VETERAN of fashion expertise told guests that today's American woman is now 5 feet 7 1/2 inches tall, weighs 130 pounds and wears a size nine shoe.

For those who are not this average woman that clothes are being designed for today, she had a couple suggestions.

Choose a very narrow heel on your shoe to give the illusion of height. Or, choose low necklines to make you look a little taller.

But despite her advice, she believes there still are some women who will never know how to dress.

"It is something some women just don't have a knack for and something some just seem never to be able to learn," she said.



Even dress-up clothes are made with the simple line. The chiffon number from France looks like it will float away by itself when unbelted. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)



The simply fashioned, easy-to-pack, soft jersey in a solid color is dressed up with a fake fur muff. Marianne Cermak matches her lavender dress with a gray muff and mauve shoes. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Monday, Oct. 1
Bonwit Teller - Fashions by Bonwit Teller will be modeled from 12:30-2:30 p.m. in Alfred's Restaurant in the Somerset Mall in Troy.
J.L. Hudson's - Myrurgia will introduce MY de Myrurgia dual fragrances, one for her and one for him, today. Samples will be given away at the downtown, Northland, Eastland, Westland, Oakland, Ann Arbor, and Lakeside stores.
Somerset Mall - Sextel in Glass, an exhibit by six local artists will be featured now through Sunday in the mall. Functional, sculptural and decorative pieces are on display and for sale. Participating

artists: Herbert Babeock, Janet Kelman, Thomas McLaughlin, Vera Sattler, Mark Talaba, and Sylvia Vighetti.

Tuesday, Oct. 2
Lord & Taylor - Accent is on glamorous accessories. Sleek hats, soft romantic blouses, waist-cinching belts and satin-bowed evening pumps are sure to enhance any wardrobe. See them in the Accessory Department at 11 a.m. and in the Shoe Salon at 1 p.m. In the Twelve Oaks store.
Janet Varner's - Designer fashions from Janet Varner of Rochester are modeled informally from noon to 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday through May in the Cooper's Arms Restaurant, 306 Main.

Jaeger's - Fashions from Jaeger's will be modeled from 12:30-2:30 p.m. in Alfred's Restaurant in the Somerset Mall.

Somerset Mall - Under the sponsorship of the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Detroit Historical Society, Somerset Mall will present a series of five

lectures on art during the month of October beginning at 10 a.m. in the Mall Auditorium. All lectures are open to the public at no charge. Today the speaker will be Mrs. David Snyder who will discuss John Singer Sargent and the Edwardian Age.

Wednesday, Oct. 3
Claire Pearson - Rafael Sanchez and Lisandro Sarasola will make personal appearances in the Somerset Mall store today and tomorrow.

Lord & Taylor - The first in a four-part weekly series on fashion, the face, fitness and finance, especially for the active career woman will begin at 6 p.m. tonight in The Cafe at the Fairlane store.
Don Thomas - Fashions from Don Thomas will be modeled from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Alfred's Restaurant in the Somerset Mall.

Thursday, Oct. 4
Lord & Taylor - Come see what's new for you in sizes 14 1/2 to 22 1/2 in The Manhattan Shop in the Lakeside Mall at 2 p.m.

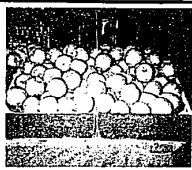
The classy classic look going into the 1980s is the super-suede two-piece suit in any neutral shade suitable for any occasion. Model Nancy Gilbert used her own suede belt to accessorize the outfit she wears with rusty-brown shoes and bag. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

fashion calendar

Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

Apple picking
Apple aficionados, take note: Mutsu apples are back in town. Refreshingly tart and crisp, they are described by Joe Dovitz at Continental Fruit as "ummm" apples because "that's what most people say when they taste them." Charity Sucek, well known gourmet cook and food connoisseur, describes them as "nicely balanced apples with enough acidity to set off the fruitiness." Imported from Canada, Mutsu apples are green, cost 79 cents a pound and can be used for both cooking and eating. Continental Fruit in The Continental Market, 210 S. Woodward, Birmingham, 642-2735.



Instant chic
Just ask any fashion model, it's accessories that can change an outfit from nice to knockout. Fancy This has some terrific accessories that can do just that. There's a series of great looking one-of-a-kind belts that could turn last year's dress into a showstopper. Made of such things as sequins, chenille, suede, feathers, lizard, snakeskin and yarn, many have antique buckles and prices start at \$35. Then there are the 54-inch oblong scarves (\$26) with a subtle rhinestone design at one end. In stock in red, blue or violet, they could be very effective tied in a bow at the neck or used as a belt. Fancy This, 29229 Northwestern, Southfield, 355-4770.



From head to toe
What with so many gift boutiques springing up all over town, Ricki Nederlander is to be congratulated for coming up with such a wonderful collection of unique and delightful items. For example, a group of large soft sculpture pillows done in the shapes of either hats or shoes. You'll find rubber thongs, Addidas sneakers, fisherman's boots with plaid turned-down cuffs, old-fashioned scuffies, 10 gallon and fireman's hats and baseball, aviator and Sherlock Holmes caps. Ranging in price from \$35 to \$50 (less 20 percent), the pillows would make memorable gifts. Ricki's in Fancy This, 29229 Northwestern, Southfield, 353-1850.



Blanket statement.
Attention, University of Michigan football fans. Instead of turning blue, you'll be warm and comfy enough to be yelling "Go Blue" when you sit under this blanket during the cold weather games ahead. The 40-by-60 inch blanket (\$23.95) features a large yellow felt letter "M" front and center while the 60-by-72 inch blanket (\$39.95) has an actual varsity yellow raised chenille letter "M." Corresponding blankets for MSU and Notre Dame fans are also in stock, and they all come with carrying cases. The Vasty Shop, 277 Pierce, Birmingham, 646-4466 and 430 Main, Rochester, 652-2551.



One way to beat the wet winter blues... Andrew Celler's waterproof "Cowgirl" boot. Made of moulded rubber with a warm, thick acrylic pile lining, it has the rich look of leather while being completely puddle-proof. It's the perfect combination of fashion plus function! In rust, taupe and buckwheat. \$36.
In SFantastic Shoes...where we are all the things you are.
Saks Fifth Avenue, Detroit, Second at Lothrop, open Monday through Saturday, 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM.
Troy, Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge, open Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 AM to 9 PM; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 AM to 6 PM; Sundays, Noon to 5 PM.