

The American Thoroughbred will step into spring with a slender, softened silhouette.

President Reagan's formal inauguration put the final stamp of legitimacy on a trend that has been building for months. Elegance in fashion was ushered into the forefront with the Reagan administration, creating a stylish era in Washington which is having an impact nationally.

Fashion designers were quick to respond to the message that Americans are fed up with casualness and the laid-back look with their own message: "We are reverting to tidiness, the look of spit and polish. We are going back to style."

The Thoroughbred look means simply that men and women alike have decided that grandfather was right, clothes and manners do make the man and the woman. Beautiful clothes and formalized mannerisms are as much a part of a certain style of life as good wine and excellent food.

THE THOROUGHbred appearance does not scream "now" or "then." It is not a look that is admired because it bores or shocks. It is neither trendy nor nostalgic. The Thor-

oughbred look combines utility, comfort, flattery, mystery, perfection and discretion.

It is a look that indicates this person knows when to stand up or sit down, how to conduct herself or himself in Washington, London, Peking or Paris; and to be comfortable whether he or she is entertaining, being entertained, or negotiating a multi-national treaty.

No longer will children be tolerated fidgeting or reading at the formal dining table. It's once again time for adults and stimulating conversation.

Also gone is hard-edged chic. Yesteryear looks have been relegated back to the attic.

It's also a season when all hues of the rainbow, plus navy and white, are emerging as the spring color tonics. Everything will be dressed up in neat, tidy packages.

It is the year of the individual who wouldn't think of being too much the individual. The American Thoroughbred will take his and her cue from the best of the American designers then add a little European seasoning for looks that will conjure visions of old school ties, influential memberships, ambassadorships and old, old money.

Quinta Shand

Spring '81

'Thoroughbreds' . . . liking who they are

Story: JEANNE WHITTAKER
Photos: DICK KELLEY

Like fine Italian luggage, English antiques and Irish crystal, the American Thoroughbred needs no label. Her look of quality, derived from years of experimentation, is its own hallmark.

When interior decorator, wife and mother Marji Nederlander decides to spruce up, she probably means that she is about to needlepoint new covers for a pair of favorite antique chairs.

When her daughter, Kathryn Breech, an aspiring actress, tries out for a theatrical role, she arrives at the audition dressed for success.

Both women possess a self-assuredness derived from knowing who they are and liking what they are.

MARJI LAUGHS while admitting that she is willing to devote two full years to stitching covers for her antiques but is unwilling to devote huge amounts of time to replenish her wardrobe each season.

"I go in and go through to see what I have and where the gaps are. Then I fill those needs."

"I've been accused of having the attention span of a 5-year-old while shopping," she said with a chuckle.

To accommodate her lack of enthusiasm for shopping with the need to find appropriate clothes for her career, not to mention frequent travels with her famous husband, Marji usually depends on an old friend, Claire Pearone.

"I don't change directions that often. After all this time, I think I know what looks good on me."

"I dress so I feel well no matter what others are wearing — that is, as long as it's appropriate."

Daughter Kathryn, 28, said that she is evolving from super casual to a more sophisticated look, from the tattered jeans of the '60s to the neatness of today's designer jeans.

"I like things that go together," the actress said.

"I'm mad for a good jacket. I try to get one general outfit that you can blend."

"Basically, I pick a color scheme that works through the years. I went through the jump suit look, but now I'm moving into the Bazaar or Vogue image."

MOTHER and daughter agree that it takes years to accumulate a wardrobe that will suit the way they like to live. They give little thought to how a particular designer thinks they ought to look.

"I basically try to buy seasonless clothes, classic things that go on forever," said Marji. "Except for cottons most of my things are very good, and I don't like anything that isn't natural."

Though they are mother and daughter, Marji and Kathryn have different physical characteristics to think about as they approach their wardrobes.

Marji, tall and slim, prefers a structured look. She looks well in Basile's padded shouldered jackets and slim pants by Valentino.

This past Christmas, husband Harry presented her with an entire Basile-Valentino outfit of seasonless jacket, shirt and pants. She has repeated the combination for the coming summer months.

Kathryn, who said she is 5-foot-2 when she stands tall, prefers unstructured jackets and straight skirts, which, she said, "give me height."

Like an increasing number of busy

executives and socialites, the Nederlanders have shed a number of the accoutrements long associated with wealth and success.

Not long ago, they moved from a large, formal home to Bloomfield Woods, a condominium complex. They now have access to all of the amenities "but none of the upkeep," Marji said with a sigh of relief.

The relaxed, almost northern-Michigan appearance of their new surroundings has freed the couple from having to dress and live as formally as they once did. Dressing up these days, said Marji, calls for a variety of tailored clothes and a few "restaurant" dresses.

Occasionally, she said, "I need something more formal, but not all that often."

"We go into New York quite often for theater openings, but even there I find that my tailored and restaurant clothes are all that I need. I love basic black, which is extremely hard to find."

It's a look, she added, that suits her, no matter where she is.

"I don't feel dated in things because I naturally move to the classic looks, which don't become dated."

KATHRYN, HOWEVER, is just beginning to achieve the lifestyle that she wants. Recently, she returned from California to appear in the Meadow Brook Theater production of "Arsenic and Old Lace." Now that she is home, she said she intends to stay.

"Before, in New York," she said, "you were considered a conspicuous success if you walked in in the right T-shirt and designer jeans."

"Now, they want you to look successful when you come in — which probably means a suit."

She said she feels at home in her

Somerset Park apartment. She has recognized, she said, that her new life in the suburbs is compatible with her preference for designer jeans, a silk shirt, boots and little or no jewelry.

"I'm basically casual but expensive," she said. "And for the evening I love silky things that flow around me, things that are feminine but free."

As they talked, the two women listened attentively to one another, nodding frequently in agreement to the other's words.

When Kathryn described her youthful preference for tattered jeans, Marji interjected, "But, you always wore a beautiful blouse with them."

Later, when Marji described a favorite sweater vest that "I couldn't get along without while working," Kathryn chuckled, "You mean you have a sweater that I haven't borrowed?"

While both say they dress to please themselves, Marji said she appreciates advice from her husband.

"He would be happy if I never wore anything but a three-piece suit by Brioni. Whenever they dress to please themselves, Marji said she appreciates advice from her husband.

"Now that he makes women's wear, Harry would love it if Brioni did everything that I wear."

Together for only a brief time between Marji's arrival home and Kathryn's departure for the West, mother and daughter reflected on their busy lives in which work, travel and community involvement play an important role.

"I don't have a lot of time to think about what I am going to be wearing," Marji said.

"That's why it's important that what I do buy is going to work out over a long period of time."



Marji Nederlander and daughter Kathryn Breech are busy career women who know who they are and like what they are doing. Marji's in little black res-

taurant dress and Kathryn's coordinated separates are all from Claire Pearone, Somerset Mall.



Kathryn is just realizing success as an actress. Marji is an established interior decorator. Kathryn is partial to silk blouses and slim skirts that give her height. Marji likes the combination of Basile and Valentino that moves from season to season. At Claire Pearone, Somerset Mall.