

# The Innocents

*Individuality with touches of yesteryear*

Just five years ago, couturier Alfred Flandaca ventured out of his native Philadelphia with his very first Thorobred couture collection. When he made his first appearance at Jacobson's Birmingham store, the designer soon captured a legion of loyal Detroit fans. Within two years, Flandaca

also captured the attention of the top fashion retail trade publication and was featured editorially in the top fashion magazines. During this time, Flandaca also caught the attention of Bonwit Teller. Since then he has become a favorite with the store's nationwide clientele.

He is also hailed as the designer of The New Couture, which means that he will adapt his designs to meet the requirements of his customers. Like Bostonian novelist Edith Wharton, Alfred Flandaca is an Easterner with an international point of view. Her "Age of Innocence" drew a portrait of the emerging individuality of the 19th century American woman. His clothes acknowledge that individuality with a gentle hark back to charm. He calls it his "Neo-Innocent" expression.

FIANDACA'S ingenue ruffles this spring have become sheer circular layers. The T-shirt shape turns up in solid sequins on silk organza. Silk charmeuse court pants topped with a lace coat are complemented with a camisole of bronze kid.

One of the important innovations in this collection is his "Flame Out," which he achieves with curving lines that meet in a point. The cut is used to form the bodice, the skirt, the jacket and pants for many of his characteristically willowy silhouettes.

"Everything in the collection is cut on the curve," he said while surrounded by his designs at Bonwit Teller, Troy. Both Matisse and Chanel receive his

tribute this year. Matisse is reflected in a series of cut-out dresses made of printed silk scarves. Chanel is honored with a group of braid-edged pale tweeds combined with chiffon blouses.

THE DESIGNER also likes to see his split-level tunic worn straight and narrow, thigh-high in front and inches longer at the back. The design is shown over both skirts and pants.

Flandaca's flair for finding exciting new materials has never been more apparent than it is this spring. He introduces such unusual surfaces as a lacquered satin super-luxurious raincoat, double-faced gabardine jackets with single-faced gabardine skirts. Also, nubby cotton plaids with the rugged look of silk tweed and silks with whimsical ribbon prints and floating ribbons.

Flandaca's spring colors are light-filtered, as varied as a midsummer flower border. There is virtually no black. But, navy and white is a favorite daytime combination, replete with proper Main Line accents.

— Rustie Shand



Architectural grace in supple, pure lines define Flandaca's green and white double-faced gabardine curved coat, which he completes with a coordinated dress. Bonwit Teller, Somerset Mall.



Alfred Flandaca turns to ballet for inspiration and the solid sequin T-shirt played over layered organza with sequin appliques. Bonwit Teller, Somerset Mall.

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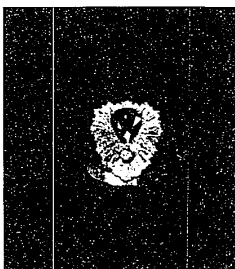
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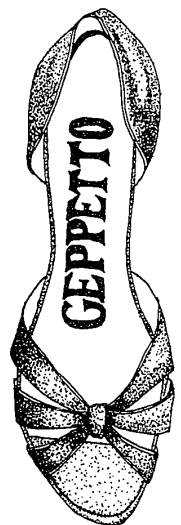
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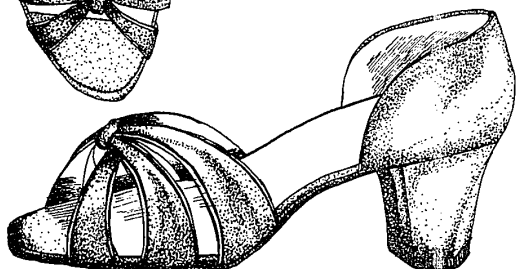


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