

Menswear

Trends signal an exciting era

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Changes in men's fashion are about as noticeable as glacial movement. A wide tie, a narrow tie, the return of olive drab and patterned socks are the stuff menswear news generally is made of — until now.

For fall, guys are still into comfortable, unrestricted clothes in a big way, but we'll also see some important trends that will be around a while — and at least one that's been trying to surface since the Kennedy years.

"This is an exciting era in men's fashion," said Derrill Osborn, director of men's clothing for Neiman Marcus, The Somerset Collection, Troy. "The younger generation has enlivened fashion by reinterpreting old rules."

For starters, the confident man will redefine the traditional suit by losing the necktie. Instead, he'll wear a cotton T-shirt, turtleneck or banded-collar shirt under the jacket for work and after-five occasions. The no-tie look (called "the new sportswear") even works with a tuxedo.

Local fashion directors aren't sure if the sans-tie look will be embraced by the Big Three, for example, but Osborn has spotted the look in New York on executives and doormen alike.

If you do tie one on, bypass outdated florals for fall's newer neckwear: stripes, smaller prints and conversation ties by designers such as Nicole Miller.

Like last season, tailored suits are made for comfort; all have a looser silhouette and extended, more rounded shoulders.

New three-button suits by Calvin Klein, Armani, Donna Karan and others give the jacket a higher stance, or an Edwardian look.

"President Kennedy started the two-button movement," said Osborn. "There's been talk about the three-button suit catching on, but it has taken 25 years or so to appear."

In New York, where the three-button look has caught on, the fashion conscious fasten only the middle button for daytime wear and the top for evening, said Osborn.

Vested suits are back from American designers and international makers such as Oxford and Eremenegildo. This time around, vests are cut



Double-duty: Wear this fashion-forward frame with clear glass or prescription lenses. The sleek Okio 101 frame comes with removable sunglasses (\$325). At Au Courant Optical Fashions, The Somerset Collection, Troy.



Nine to after-five: Interesting weaves and new neckwear show up in fall menswear. Above, Joseph Abboud's tick weave double-breasted wool suit (\$590), cream tattersall cotton dress shirt (\$80) and midnight/rust rectangle silk tie (\$55). At Steve Petix Clothiers, Beverly Hills and Plymouth.



Relaxed silhouette: Relaxed and sophisticated describes Joseph Abboud's fall offerings. Above, an oatmeal glen-plaid wool topcoat, double-breasted sand-tone suit, khaki twill logo shirt and lambswool/cashmere tie are shown. At The Claymore Shops, Birmingham.



Distinctly Italian: Leather will top his casual wardrobe with style. Men's three-quarter-length, anorak-style jacket in soft lamb leather with drawstring waist, detachable hood and Thinsulate lining by Siluede (\$319). At Laszlo's Leathers, Birmingham.