

Shape of Things To Come

The dress look for spring is shaped, softened and clinging generally—with an impudent-sexy mood for evening. Two important incoming silhouettes: Bias-cut blouses nearly covering a belted waistline, cowl neckline, skirt softened with pleats; princess-derived seams on the curve and the slant, irregular bias gores in the skirt, a scarf neckline. Both shapes move into summer, where dresses will be eased.

In analyzing spring fashion trends, fashion editors find that the big talk in spring coats is shape without fit—a gentle curve constructed with a minimum of seams, including those with just the illusion of front fit and really swinging backs. The rest of the news is details: more set-in and continued raglan sleeves; pockets galore—high, low, patch, square, curved; collars—small, notched or rolled. Suits are true to this "in-out" shape. Backs are straight, with no swing. The real suit news is length. Longer jackets turn into baby overcoats. But even the more conventional suits add jacket length. The word is slim for skirts—and pleated for the suddenly-new-again. And again trouser pleats, gathered waistbands and A-lines and a few side-wrap skirts take their place in the spring skirt movement.

YOU CAN'T TALK about suits and spring without mentioning the enduring name of Chanel. Her look is spring, with the biggest emphasis on two styles. One is the much braid-bound tweed cardigan plus color. The other is the double-breasted blazer, with the notched lapels.

Open jacket suits have suddenly opened up a new fashion area. Jackets, without buttons and a minimum of details, are of the boxy-cardigan variety usually with a great looking blouse to set them off. Ribbed fabrics and stripes do well here, since they underline the simplicity of it all.

CAPES STAR

This is the season for capes and capelets. The full length capes are



Jeans Shirt

Crisp "blue-jeans" shirt stripe-plaid in red/white and navy easy-care cotton from a collection for spring and summer, 1964. Stripes run in a diagonal direction on the placket, the sleeve-edge and side pocket. May be purchased at several Birmingham stores.

under careful control with a narrow arching through the shoulder lines and a minimum of swing. Capelets are a strong part of the suit picture, usually turning into a costume with a coordinated blouse. And there are also many caplet coats, with the cape developing from back into sleeve.

Costumes this spring are bigger and better than ever. The coat a la Chanel with silk facing and skirt and blouse to match is very popular. And in three-piece suits, the favorite third piece is still pretty much a shell blouse and coordinating lining. However, there are many more enterprising blouses that make much of pleating, blousons, collars and cuffs.

TEXTURE IS STILL the magic word with mohair either alone or mixed with wool creating the surface interest. Many chunky looking tweeds mix many fibers with a bulky look and a light hand. Very new: Hard finished men's wear worsteds.

Oodles of white for coats and suits buttoned in brass or braided with red and blue; bright navy; much green of the vivid acid variety or mixed with blue; oatmeal beige; black and white in hound-tooth checks or glen plaids; strong pinks, new look of wisteria.

SPORTSWEAR SOFTER

The sportswear look is going soft after the sportive binge. From town separates to playwear, the silhouette is feminine, very pretty, ladylike. Women's Wear Daily editors find that separates are breaking with the rigid pattern of this-must-go-with-that. The individual skirt and blouse ensemble is returning—tuck in, easy and bloused. There is lots of sleeve interest, exaggerated and droopy collars, textures. There is layering (even in swimsuits), and tossing together of colors and patterns with seeming abandon, but it takes real know-how to add up properly.

There are no drastic changes in shape... moving closer to the body but not fitted. Jackets are fitted. Jackets are curved and shaped, simple cardigans and blazers. Skirts are cut with walking ease; blouses are soft and fluffy. There are plenty of pants, straight and relaxed. Shifts and jumpers continue, with more shape. Beachwear is the prettiest in years—relaxed, bare and in delicate fabrics.

MILLINERY RELAXED

Hats this spring look as if they were made to go with clothes. And so the mood is soft, the spirit young, lines uncluttered—everything relaxed and easy.

Brimms are the best... mobile with flip-up action (newest in the thirties manner), snappy with sweeps and swoops... dashed forward... rolled at every turn... cushioned and thick at the edges to give even sailors a more supple stance.

Crowns come down—some a little, some a lot—all to the flattery of feminine heads. Shapes are pure and pretty-attuned to the fluid beat of spring suits, coats and dresses—from tiny tam to shadow brim... a minimum of fuss, fewer extremes, and even those not outlandish.

Stripes Straking Through Fashions

Stripes are "in" for both men and women this season and the stripes for gals are "swipes" from the men.

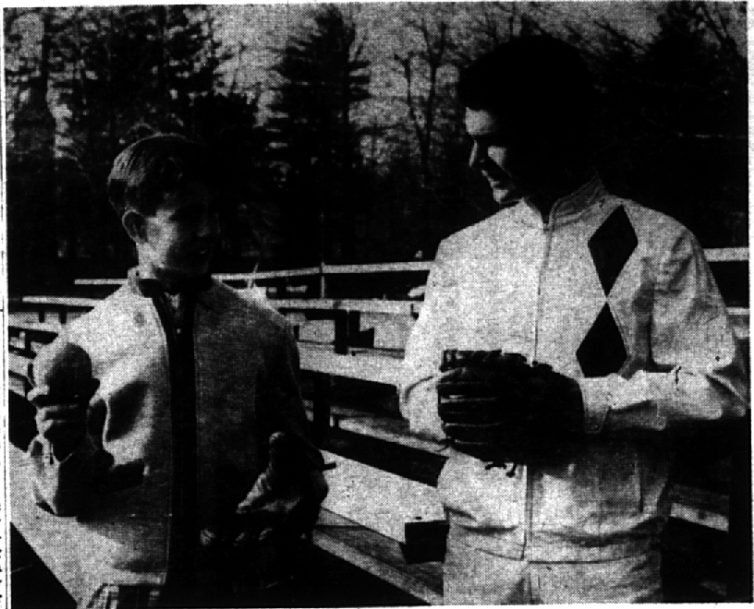
What kind of stripes for the ladies?

Well, here we go: Chalk stripes, pencil stripes, blazer stripes, pin stripes, abstract stripes, stripes of every kind imaginable!

Where will the stripes be seen?

In coats for daytime, in busy-hour dresses, in suits, costumes and in sportswear, and even swimsuits.

For further information on fashions featured in this section, call MI 4-1100.



Cadet Collar Jackets

Warming up for the big game in new boy is set to go in a white poplin jacket, with cadet collar jackets are the prep boy (left) brightly contrasted diamond motif. On display in a laminated knit model, with elbow patch, play at The Prep Shop. contrast-trimmed in cotton suede; student



Over a cup of tea, Bill Atkinson has been designing again... good fortune that the cup itself was Delft!

There is something about this beautiful blue and flax that is a natural go-together, and the hand-painted Delft pattern had to be on the finest cotton lawn. Cloth and clothes alike are steeped in craftsmanship, and from a Tulip Skirt to an Heirloom Shirt, you will find each piece a collector's item in THE DELFT COLLECTION.



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