



Fall Style '88

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Examiner**

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WEEKLY NEWS
WEEKLY NEWS**

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Mayorally style: TMR's Vera Danyluk
and Westmount's May Cutler. See page 9.

Fall/winter fashions classy but wearable

Bye-bye frou-frou. This season, class replaces sass. Fall/winter fashions are ladylike and polite, quietly chic.

Above all, they're wearable. Look for simple, clear lines, basic jackets, easy cardigans, slim skirts, tailored pants for day; evening gets a little jazzier.

"Fall and winter fashions are calmer, less aggressively frivolous," says a buyer for a major department store. "They're safe and sensible. Fabrics are classic. The theme is subtle elegance — and anything goes."

Anything? Not quite. Poufs are passé. So are muddy, boring browns (but shades

of nutmeg and chocolate are OK — especially when accented with black).

You'll be fine if you shun the giddy, ruffled, frilly looks of recent seasons.

Should you avoid the much-maligned mini, too?

Certainly not — if you have the legs for it. Thigh-high still flies. But the good news is you don't have to bare anything you don't want to.

It's a return to common sense: savvy dressing means emphasizing your assets. No matter what your age or lifestyle, you can look and feel fashion-forward.

So, if you know your legs, you

know your skirt length. (When in doubt, do as the Duchess of Windsor did: Stop at the knee.)

Bright colors are key — but select only those that complement your personal palette. If you're not sure, see a color consultant.

Despite the season's leeway, there are distinct trends you'll want to follow.

Colors, fabrics, patterns, textures and accessories define the look, as do the new silhouettes, necklines and trims. The big news is pants. You will see them everywhere: billowy pyjamas for evening, cigarette legs and knickers for day/play, man-tailored trousers with sweaters and jackets for work.

thank (or blame) for shades that shout during what is normally a subdued season.

You can't go wrong if you combine a vivid jacket with a black skirt or pants, opaque hose and pumps.

Plaids and checks are popular, including black and white houndstooth and black, brown and/or gray combined with red.

Prints are less prominent overall, but florals are still with us (particularly anything with roses). Tapestries, too.

It's still OK to mix plaids, polka dots, florals, paisleys and stripes.

Sharp shapes

The overall silhouette is form-fitting but not skintight. (Stay in that aerobics class. Clothes look best — and this season is no exception — on a well-toned, slender body.)

Take it from the top: topknot, that is. Wear your hair high in a ponytail, chignon or knot. Note: fake hairpieces reminiscent of the '60s are coming back.

Next, necks. For the most part, necklines and collars are uncluttered.

Most noticeable are soft shawl collars, turtlenecks, crew and boat necks, and not quite off-the-shoulder wide scoops. Funnel-necks appear on coats and shirts. Add fur for evening.

Jackets range from cropped and sassy (boleros and bombers) to long and shapely (blazers, with or without lapels). You'll see them belted, with partial peplums and short and swingy, too.

Billowing wraps — coats, capes,

Must-haves for fall

Ready to go shopping? Add these to your list of fashions that update your wardrobe, and show off your style sense:

- Bold-colored jacket
- Stockings in opaque black and fuchsia
- Large earrings in geometric shapes, especially round
- Tailored trousers for day
- Full, flowing trousers and ankle-length gowns for evening
- Fringed shawl
- Turtle- and T-neck sweaters
- Chemise dress
- Black flats
- Anything cashmere
- Black vinyl raincoat
- Slender suit in a soft knit.

stoles and shawls — steal the show. Shoulder pads are going, going, but not gone. The quarterback look has been sidelined; shoulders now are softer, more rounded.

Skirt length

Skirts are softly tailored and straight; hems hit anywhere from midhigh to ankle, but most often hover between 2 inches above the knee and midcalf. For evening, go longer and fuller.

The most noteworthy dress style is the chemise. It hangs straight from the shoulder, fits loosely at the waist and tapers gently at the knee — a style that was revolutionary when Balenciaga introduced it 30 years ago.

Pants most often are high-waisted and wide-legged. For evening, there's the skirt pant: pants so wide they resemble skirts.

Finish with flats and simple pumps — best in black.

Feel-me fabrics

If you can't resist running your fingertips along a fabric, it's probably in style. Look for those that are shirred, quilted, ribbed, nubby and puckered.

'Tis the season to be tactile: Indulge in smooth, soft leather and suede, velvet, cashmere, alpaca, ribbed twill, silk damask, satin, wool crepe, chiffon, feather-light gabardines, and fur.

For play, denim is as popular as ever; this season, the colors are darker. Go indigo.

Accessories and accents

Finishing touches to fall/winter fashions include scalloped edges, fringes, collars and cuffs trimmed in velvet and fur, tassels, braids, buttons and bows.

Embroidery, instead of beading, embellishes evening wear.

Belts are narrower (they couldn't get any wider!). Look for a South-west/cowboy influence in leather belts and watchbands.

Clutches are canteen-like, made of soft colored leathers. Reptile patterns still slither.

Hats are back — and they're the exception to the rule: Frivolous is fine.

Earrings remain large and round; necklaces are multiple, as are bracelets. Any jewelry designed by a big-name architect (yes, architect) is so hot it sizzles.

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Allure	12
American	15
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Boutique Arnelle	14
Boutique Avantage-Plus	3
Boutique Fantasque	2
Boutique MacDonald	6
Boutique Mitsouko	10
Carriage Trade	4
Charles of Westmount	2
Collange Lingerie	12
Denis Custom Shirt	6
Dynamite	13
Emery's Exclusive Furs	15
Exclusive Wig Designs	9
Freedom	14
Lou Goldberg Jeweller	5

Index

Henry Marks Men's Wear	7
Institut d'Aromathérapie	15
Interbas	4
La Manucure	2
Le Specimen	7
Le Studio Workout	13
Lilly Dee	6
LL Brome	16
Nini Haupt Boutique	8
Olly de Hollande	14
The Pinck Way	8
Ragenti	13
Rosine Tran Esthetics	?
Son Altesse	12
Tilley Mephisto	10
Tweedy Clothes	9
William H Mack	4

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A warm winter coat available in many ways

When cold winds blow, you need a coat to cuddle in. This season you have plenty of choices.

"Like almost everything for fall, there are alternatives," says fashion columnist Mary Gottschalk.

"They include slim coats with wide shawl collars, traditional duffel coats with hoods, princess shapes, capes, pea coats, trench coats with cape backs and suede coats lined with shearling."

Knee-length or shorter coats outshine longer ones. And full coats for fall are haute. They flare, flow and

command attention for daytime and evening.

Most popular is the swing coat. (The name describes the way it floats around the body. It's also called trapeze.) The shape allows more movement underneath — great if you hate feeling confined.

Splashed with bright colors, satin-lined wool swing coats and jackets make a fashion statement. Their sturdy double-faced fabrics hold their shape. Wear them over high-waisted dresses or leather skirts.

Buttons are big, usually black or

gold. Necklines are often high, some with face-framing funnel collars.

Not all coats are capelike (remember, this is a season of options).

Belted redingotes (long, plain, double-breasted coats) are one exception, as are blazers and jackets. These are usually fitted — wide at the shoulders, narrow at the waist.

Huge shoulders are slimming down, becoming more rounded. Blazers are less boxy, more structured. Jackets are short and snug, particularly when worn with pants.

Your wardrobe should include a shawl. Wear it as an alternative to a coat or jacket or to add another warm layer to any outfit. Shawl fabrics are luxuriant (one favorite is cashmere) and often trimmed in fringe.

Coat couture

Designers envelope women in big, cozy coats of Mongolian and Persian lamb, embroidered mohair, boucle, mink-lined suede, plush wool velvet, silk brocade, blanket plaids, hairy wools, bulky tweeds and wool felt.

Collars are fur or velvet. Others, inspired by Christian Lacroix's fichus, look like shawls. Some are so deep that they can be pulled up and used as hoods; others rise high into tunnel shapes to keep the wind off the neck and chin.

For a high-fashion look, combine a purple haze clutch coat with an amethyst ribbed cowl-necked wool sweater and an indigo suede skirt. Or wear a windowpane plaid topcoat over tattersall plaid pants.

Fluffy, chubby lamb jackets dominate wool pants. Tailored coats have crocheted lapels and sailor collars.



This traffic-stopping red wool melton coat from Laura Ashley features a full swing skirt, black scrollwork and black velvet buttons.

Swirling capes reminiscent of a Russian winter caress at calf-length. As big as blankets, they are made of wool, feathery Mongolian lamb and cashmere.

Some are plaid, others hounds-tooth-checked or solid. Details include smocklike gathers at the shoulders and leather fringe.

Wear capes, cape-coats and wrap coats over co-ordinating tailored trousers and simple short dresses. A finishing touch: leather gloves.

Shop for versatility

The right raincoat functions well in variable weather. And it goes to the office as well as the ballgame.

One made of lightweight cotton or rayon will see you through several seasons. Right-on raincoats don't

have to be trench. Swing is in.

Nor are you stuck with khaki, grey, taupe or black. Multiseason colors include pumpkin, hot pink and crimson. The sun may hide, but you'll shine in vinyl — or waterproof silk taffeta. Raincoats reflect subtle patterns and quilting; black and metallic finishes dominate. The ultimate luxury in rainwear is fur lining.

The secret to a coat's versatility is within: zip-out insulations. Zip in the lining for cooler days, zip it out as temperatures rise. Zipability means more than linings. A zip-out hood converts a general outer-coat into one with added warmth. It provides protection from wet weather, too.

Whatever coat you choose, make sure the fit is loose enough to develop an insulating interior envelope of warm air.

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Men's breeches were reversible

In olden times men's breeches were reversible. They didn't open at either front or back and thus had some drawbacks that come easily to mind.

But the advantage was that when the seat got thin, the wearer merely turned it around.

Only half Chopined

Frederic Chopin (1810-49), Polish composer and concert pianist, wore a beard on only one side of his face, explaining, "My audience sees only my right side."

It's a compliment

If someone tells you that you are dressed to the nines, take it as a compliment, for it means you are wearing the height of fashion or are simply gorgeously turned out — perfection!

Flaky cures

Among ancient Middle Eastern cures for dandruff were ones calling for hippopotamus fat, fish oil and soft grease.

No great idea

Russia's Peter the Great tried to tax beards in 1705, and thereby nearly caused a rebellion.

Travel fashions mix business, pleasure

Planning a high-powered business trip, but don't want to be weighed down by two separate wardrobes — one for business and one for relaxation in the evening?

Not to worry. Designers are offering a broad spectrum of fashion options that take you from the airport to the boardroom to dinner after hours at the choicest restaurant in town.

What *W*, a bible of fashion developments, calls the quiet chic of fall is a blessing to the business traveller. The current collections offer a vogue combination of functional practicality and chic styling.

Fall's biggest fashion statement, pants, offers one of the most comfortable and elegant travel options available.

Taking their cue from menswear, women's trousers are generously cut for a fluid drape and optimum comfort. They travel well, and look professional — just right for airline travel.

The wide use of menswear fabrics and patterns (glen plaids, checks) makes them appropriate for a business environment, and they work with flats and higher heels.

Hemlines: any length

This season you don't have to skirt the issue of hemlines; you can take your pick. Women who are more comfortable in longer skirts will fit right in, while those who still want to show a bit of leg don't have to sacrifice, either.

The best length for shorter hemlines ranges between the top of the knee and two inches above it. Any-

thing much shorter would be awkward for busy travellers.

Another bonus: the simplicity of fall designs makes it easier than ever for travel wardrobes to soar from day to evening.

You might arrive in a city clad in a pair of generously cut black trousers paired with a form-fitting, hip-grazing jacket in a brilliant jewel tone (teal is great, so is red). Add a smartly styled white silk blouse. A pair of low-heeled black shoes lets you walk in comfortable style (a must for business travellers).

Evening wear

In the evening you might open the jacket and add some exciting faux jewelry to enliven the look, or change your blouse to something in one of the lively up-to-the minute colors and wrap a silk sash around your waist. If you pack cleverly, you might even have room to throw in a bolero-length jacket for an even snappier look.

While you're packing, veteran globetrotters suggest making life as simple as possible by packing as little as possible.

Designers and world travellers Betsey Johnson and Adrienne Vittadini, who design entirely different looks, offer similar advice: Pack a good selection of basics (trousers, skirts, blouses and jackets) in neutral colors (it's even easier if you pick *one* neutral color, such as black). Black, camel and white are this fall's favorite neutrals.

Then vary the basics to suit your needs by packing an even better selection of accessories. Include a good variety of jewelry and belts.

Don't forget one top accessory that combines fashion and function: a long, long scarf to wind around your neck and tie with a big knot. Not only does it look incredibly chic, it also keeps you warm in cold climes.

The blurred lines of day and evening elegance further simplify your travels by enabling you to bring along only one handbag. A sophisticated black leather purse will do for both work and play.


The fabrics you pack can also make the difference between a care-free trip and one that is plagued by

wrinkles. Wrinkle-resistant knits are a traveller's dream come true. Other travel-friendly fabrics include wool and cotton blends with a touch of polyester.

Silk is also a good companion, if you pack it carefully.

Bring along a small travel iron or a portable steamer to freshen up travel-weary garments. Packing clothes in plastic bags takes a bit more time before you depart, but minimizes touch-ups at your destination.

In a hectic travel schedule, it's easy to miss connections. Avoid being the victim of lost luggage by packing an extra set of underwear, pantyhose and essential toiletries in your carry-on luggage.



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Petites get their own fashion statement

The word *petite* used to conjure up images of grown women in children's clothing with cute ruffles and bows or, in the case of petites with less-than-perfect figures, downright dowdiness.

Small women used to be at the mercy of designers who worked with the tall, leggy figure in mind.

While the tall woman could get by with a bow at the hip, the petite ended up looking like Alice in Wonderland. Dresses with belts, designed to soften a long figure, made shorter women look like gnomes.

No more!

In the past couple of years petites, particularly those who need a professional image in the business world, have rejected both the little-girl look and handed-down fashion. They have demanded a fashion statement all their own, and designers have listened to their pleas.

Now there are departments and entire stores dedicated to serving the woman under 5'4". They are staffed by salespeople who have been trained in what is most flattering to the small figure.

And this season they have got lots to show you.

The colors that came in with spring will stay through fall, but in deeper, more magnetic hues. The khakis, blacks and tans we usually associate with transition into winter are gone, and in their place are magenta, fuchsia and cobalt blue.

As petites have long known, monochromatic dressing is the best way to draw attention away from size. Up until now, however, it also has been boring.

This year, make your one color a bright one, and then choose a second color for a pin or earrings to bring attention to your face.

Skirt length has long been an enemy of petite women. Midcalf hemlines resulted in a dumpty look, and miniskirts looked childish.

This year, the gap between skirt lengths will be closed. There will be choices, as always, but they will be either just above the knee or just below it, both flattering to the small figure.

Another solution to hemline blues is the re-emergence of the jumpsuit. Choose cotton for an elongated casual look, but for evening wear, turn to stunning black crepe or smashing silk with full, flowing legs.

You no longer have to look like a little girl in a party dress at formal events. Instead of frills and floral patterns, designers are introducing sleek, sophisticated lines.

The less-is-more principle is definitely in effect here. The dresses are pared down, even skimpy, but definitely not dull and certainly not juvenile. These gowns expose lots of back and shoulder.

Two-piece jersey and cotton knits will be the byword for office wear, but to avoid the cut-in-half look sepa-

rates can give petites, designers are using lots of intarsia — inlaid geometric print on print that creates a zigzag effect with diagonal lines instead of horizontal ones. And look for bold colors on either side of that diagonal slash, such as cobalt and black.

In jewelry, choose deep, vibrant colors to mix and match with your gold and silver standbys. Find square scarves that can be tied to create interest around your face or long, slim ones to trail down the front of your dress and add to your vertical line.

Shoulder handbags still will be popular, but the straps will be shorter to avoid pulling attention to the lower half of the figure. If you're self-conscious about less-than-perfect hips, avoid the problem altogether with a clutch bag.

Shoes will match the colorful hemlines, but select only those that have simple, elongated styles. Flats will be an option, even for office dressing, but remember that even the smallest of heels adds height.

How do you mesh your wardrobe additions with your old clothes to create consistently chic look for all events? Look for help at the book-store.

Petite Style by Susan Ludwig (New American Library) and *Petite Packaging* by Rita Coronel (R. Goldberg & Associates) are two new arrivals that are crammed with useful information and instructive drawings and photographs.

Ms. Coronel's small paperback is a treasure trove of dos and don'ts. It begins with emptying your closet onto the bed and making some radical deletions to make room for the new you.

She covers how to dress for all occasions with attention to every detail, including stockings and lingerie. And she takes into consideration some petites with unusual problems.

The petite bride, for example, needs to choose a headpiece that adds height instead of a veil that draws attention downward. She should also avoid stiff, unyielding fabrics and a train that drags behind her.

Pregnant petites, Ms. Coronel says, often dress like the children

they are expecting. Look for flowing, lightweight fabrics in muted colors, unconstructed jackets and support stockings in co-ordinated tones.

Petite Style is the product of years of conducting seminars and counseling small women on attaining more power in the workplace and in relationships.

Ms. Ludwig says it's a good idea to know the rules for petite dressing — "always wear high heels, never wear cuffed pants" — but you also need to know when and how to break those rules.

She suggests soft, lightweight fabrics, but if your favorite garment is a furry angora sweater, just make sure you wear it with slim pants or a gored skirt.

Compensate, compromise. One garment does not make or break an entire look, she says.

Ms. Ludwig also has developed what she calls The Rule of Three. The three parts of your ensemble can be pants, a sweater and a jacket, for example, or a dress, a duster and a scarf.

She also suggests accentuating the "expressive triangle" — your head and shoulders. Wear a short, upswept hairstyle and start collecting exciting hats.

And never go out without at least one piece of dramatic jewelry near your face. Avoid tiny earrings and choose instead those that are the size of a 25-cent piece, large enough to make a statement.

Add shoulder pads to all of your blouses and dresses for the suggestion of authority.


More advice for small women: Realize it's from the shoulders up that counts, and think of yourself as a person of stature, even if you're not tall. Defuse short jokes firmly but with humor.

Remain seated when conducting business meetings so that everyone is the same height.

Define your space and fill it. Use expansive gestures, drape your arm across the back of your chair, spread your briefcase out on the table in front of you.

And greet business associates with a firm handshake that says that while you may be small, you expect to be taken seriously.

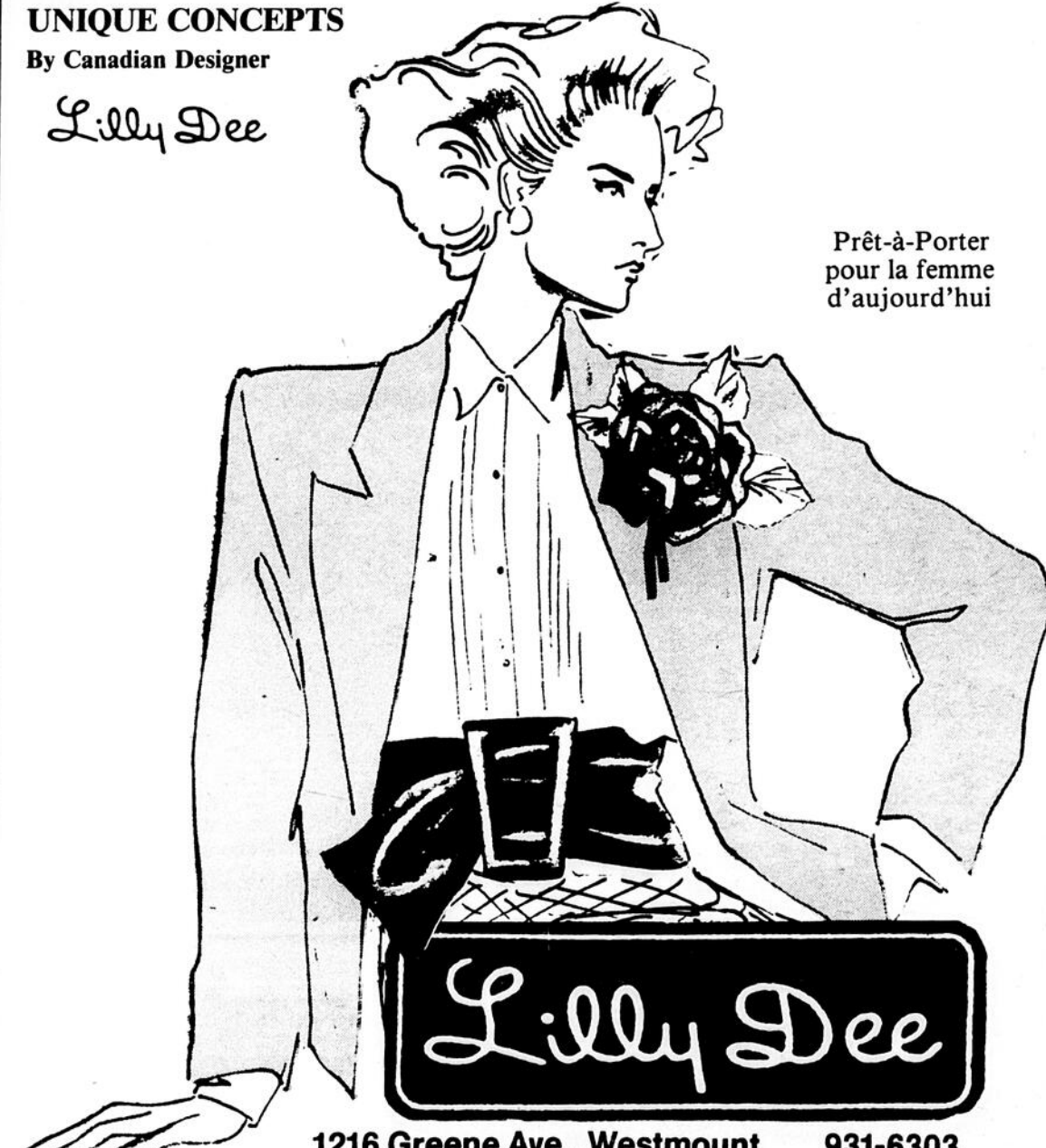
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Flamboyance out for men; simplicity, white shirts are in

For men, summer clothes simply aren't serious. When overcoats begin to emerge from closets, men's clothing takes on the weight that women traditionally have given their clothes. But this season, with dicey economic times ahead, serious dressing for men is a more serious matter than usual.

Perhaps the most visible symbol of the new conservatism in dress is the much-maligned suspender. Daniel Feinstein, fashion news editor for *MGF Magazine*, calls the braces look a cliché.

While Mr. Feinstein admits he still makes the look, he advises readers to wear them less frequently, particularly if they work in the financial sector.

Fashion flamboyance, say the trend-spotters, is a thing of the past. Today's menswear is buttoned-down and simple. Nothing proves that so much as the resurgence of one simple item of sartorial splendor — the white shirt.

The return of the man in the white shirt has been the news of the fashion industry. Why not, says one salesman. White shirts go with everything, and they indicate a conservative outlook.

White shirts are selling like hotcakes, even in fashion centres such as New York. New York's *Bloomingdale's* has reported that 65 percent of the solid-color dress shirts they sell are white. That has put shirt manufacturers in high cotton.

If you can't afford \$350 for a shirt of Egyptian cotton with Australian mother-of-pearl buttons, there are

some things you can look for in the basic white shirt.

Cross-stitched buttons indicate quality, as do removable stays. (While removable stays may seem like the ultimate in silly tailoring, they are completely practical.) A split yoke and full-sleeve plackets are also nice touches in an off-the-shelf shirt.

Another sign of the times is the disappearance of acid-washed denim. The look, which most fashion followers describe as trendy rather than classic, is not quite washed up, but basic blue and black are back.

Mr. Feinstein predicts that over-dyed jeans will be the biggest look this fall, with deep-toned washes of indigo and black giving jeans a dresser look.

As for the patched, torn, bleached and generally raggedy look, forget it.

While all this conservative dressing is going on, there is one area where individual tastes can still be a bit eccentric.

It used to be that power ties came in yellow and pink. Today, splashy, hand-painted silk ties from the '40s and '50s are showing up in boardrooms all over the country.

Tropical is topical. A new line of Perry Ellis neckwear features wild Hawaiian prints with exotic flower and fruit designs.

Polka dots are also back, after being banished to sartorial Siberia for more than one season. Mr. Feinstein says that small-scale dots are big in neckwear, while extra-large ovals are showing up in casual sports attire.

Pocket squares offer a peek of polka dots in an otherwise gray flannel wilderness. It's just enough to say you are an individual, without making the chairman of the board nervous.

The newest shape in jackets is the inverted bell — a jacket with big shoulders and a fitted waist, with three- or four-button single-breasted closure.

Many designers are showing ventless jackets, but the loose, unconstructed *Miami Vice* look has seen its day.

The *Miami Vice* palette of pastels is old news as well. While tastemaker/designer Bijan Pakzad, whose two fashion emporiums in Beverly Hills and New York are open by invitation only, still tries to convince his customers to buy a white flannel suit ("the plateau of discriminating taste"), the trend this fall is toward more somber hues.

For sports coats, which are becoming more accepted attire for the office, that means muted colors and understated patterns.

Joan Vass chose ultramarine and eggplant for her fall men's knitwear collection, and designer Allyn St. George uses rich cranberry, copper and chocolate leathers for his accessories.

The return to classic looks has also prompted men to look to the past for their accessories. Vintage eyeglass frames, antique cuff links, collar stays and collar sticks all add an air of solidity to a man's wardrobe.

Since this is an era of "you are what you wear," the look to cultivate is that of prosperity. This fall's new conservative clothing fills the bill nicely.



Dressing well comes easily when you're grouping separates such as these from Gucci's City Dressing group.



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Working women have many options for fall wardrobe

Working women, you're in charge. The fashion powers-that-be concede to your needs.

"American designers have provided a number of options for this fall, and it may be that wisdom lies in that direction," says *Time* magazine. "Whatever a woman decides to wear, the choice is clearly hers."

"My first reaction was elation," says Marsha Fordham, a corporate executive. "But then I felt adrift. I can't wear just anything to work and look stylish. So where do I begin?"

Despite the anything-goes approach to fashion, there are distinct trends. Use them as the building blocks of a wardrobe that is *you*, personally as well as professionally.

According to Janet Wallach, author of *Looks That Work* (Penguin), career women fall into three categories: corporate, communicator and creative. Know which describes you. It will help you to be focussed and selective as you shop.

Corporate

You work in a traditionally male-oriented industry — perhaps finance, law, accounting, banking or insurance.

Men and women in these fields should maintain an appearance that is still conservative — that is, constructed suits and tailored dresses, solid colors (this season, more vibrant and Lacroix-inspired), or

subtle patterns and simple accessories.

"Some organizations want a strict business look, others are more laid back," says Ms. Wallach. "When in doubt, watch how the highest-ranking woman in the firm dresses."

Communicator

You work in sales or service areas, in advertising, media, fundraising, politics, public relations, psychology or sociology. Or you're an entrepreneur.

"Your appearance should indicate accessibility, not intimidation," says Ms. Wallach, "and it should express authority without being authoritarian. The severe, somber, structured business suit may be too stand-offish."

"Colors and patterns the communicator chooses may be broader in range and brighter in tone. Fabrics may be more varied, emphasize softer wovens or fluid knits. There is also greater choice in style, which ranges from updated to more innovative."

Creative

You work in retailing, fashion, cosmetics, interior design, the performing arts, music or photography. Or you're a museum or art gallery coordinator, an editor or a professional artist.

You can be innovative, imaginative

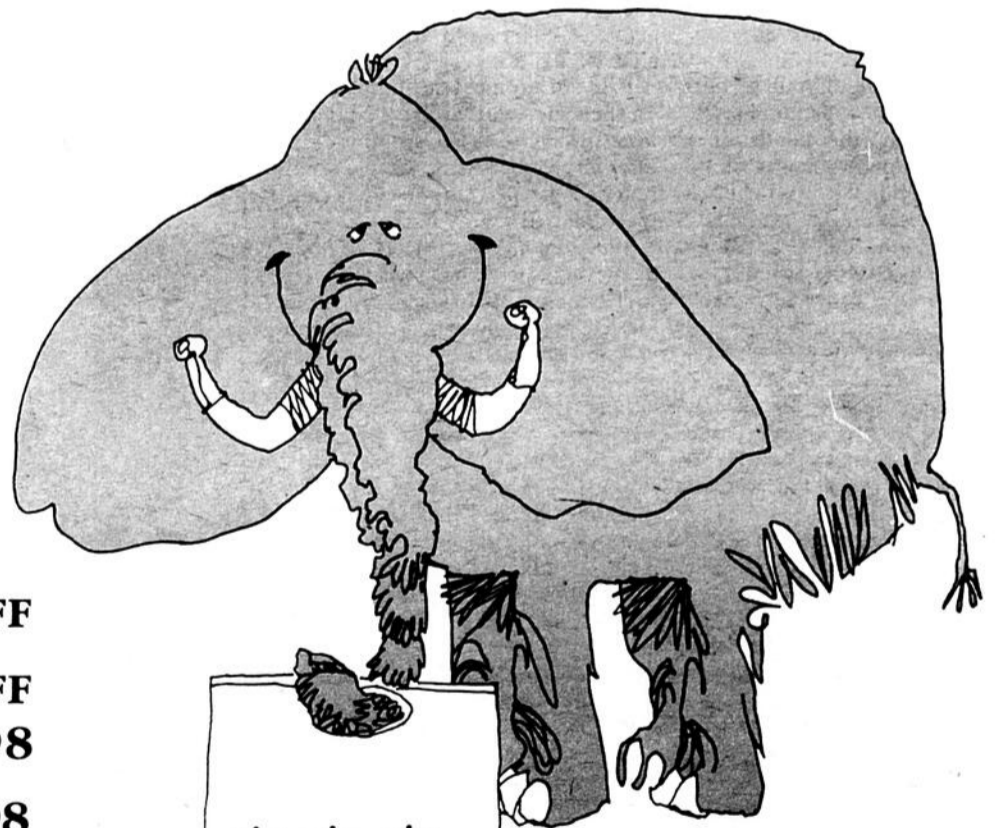
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Women bring fashion into city hall

The old, grey mayors ain't what they used to be!

Not long ago, when suburban mayors and Montreal city councillors gathered at Montreal city hall for Urban Community council meetings, the fashion word was simple: dark or grey business suit. Can you imagine Jean Drapeau in anything else?

Times change, however, and women have entered the world of municipal politics with a vengeance, bringing a fashion sense with them. Two of the additions to the mayoralty scene last fall were Town of Mount Royal's Vera Danyluk and Westmount's May Cutler.

Both fun-loving ladies eagerly accepted our invitation to model new and locally available fall fashions for the business (or political) woman and met outside (cover) and inside (right) Montreal city hall to show what they'd found.

Mayor Danyluk, at left in both photos, chose an ensemble by Basler of West Germany from Nini Haupt Boutique, 1285 Laird boulevard, Town of Mount Royal. Her wool skirt is in red and black plaid which is nicely shown off by a pure wool black blazer with red detail in the buttonholes and a pure cotton white blouse. A red plaid silk bow adorns the neckline. Other accessories, including earrings come from Nini Haupt's hand-selected collection.

Mayor Cutler also chose a West German ensemble, by Gerry Weber, available at Tweedy Clothes, 4209 St Catherine street west, Westmount. Her three-piece suit features a loden green gaberdine wool pleated skirt and jacket with a very fine polyester blouse in broad stripes of white and loden green. The skirt has a beautiful leather belt, also in loden green, and she highlighted the look with her own jewelry.

Both ensembles were selected for their fashion quality and for their ability to give businesswomen a comfortable outfit for the workday that can be converted easily to social evening wear.

and inventive in your clothing — in fact, the people you work with expect you to be. It's an expression of your creative talent.

But don't go overboard. People want to perceive some identification with themselves.

"The artistic flair doesn't necessarily mean complex dressing, nor need it be outrageous," says Ms. Wallach. "It can range from contemporary to avant-garde, although sometimes it's expressed best through spareness. The truly creative woman makes her own fashion."

Fashion alternatives

If you feel unsure of your professional statement or individual style, place yourself in the hands of a fashion consultant or personal shopper. A colorist will tell you what hues bring out the best in you.

Incorporate the following trends into your cold-weather wardrobe. Look for them as you visit department stores, specialty shops and clothing boutiques.

Overall, the trend is toward knee-length skirts and dresses, pants, cardigans, simple lines, traditional knits and bright, clear colors. Darts and seams enhance curves rather than display them.

Ladylike dressing dominates this season's collections, a dramatic departure from the youthful, insouciant look of last year's mini.

"Last season, the suit was key,"

designer Calvin Klein told *Vogue* magazine. "Now the key is choice, and a new emphasis on shape. I love knitwear, chemises, soft suits."

Suits are sensible, marked by neat tailoring and soft chic. The silhouette has gentle shoulders, cinched waists and easy skirts or tailored pants. Fabric drapes and flatters.

Combine a navy pinstripe wool with a cream silk blouse. For day-into-evening, wear a *Dynasty*-like red beplumed suit trimmed with black fox.

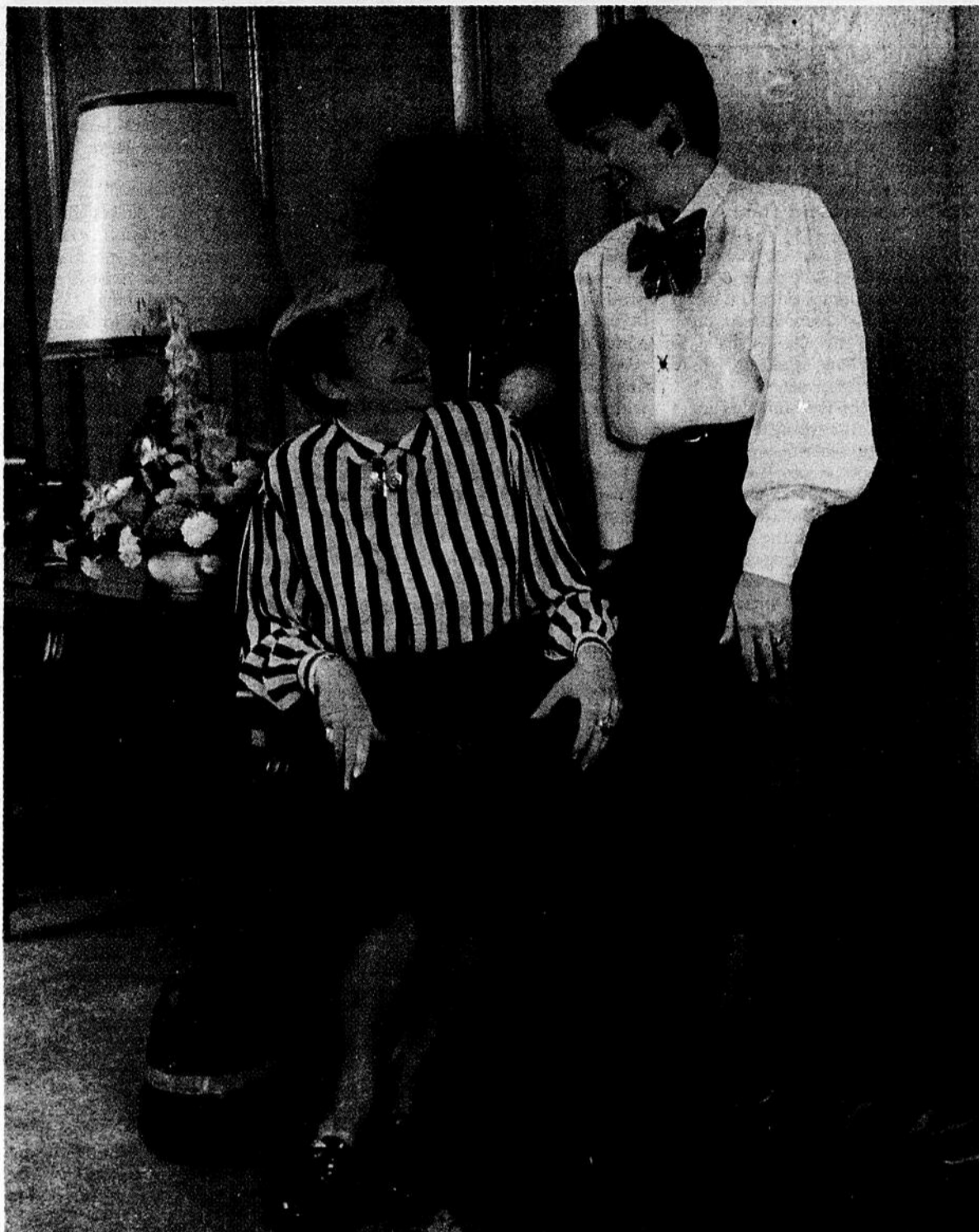
Powerful padded shoulders are replaced with skillfully sculpted stand-up collars and attached wrap shawls.

Pants are important. Emphasis is on the waist, with both full and slim legs. Trouser suits feature short jackets, double-breasted jackets with notched lapels, tuxedo vests and high-collared swing coats.

With pants go a variety of tops, from romantic white shirts to sporty turtlenecks. Fabrics for pants include beige, brown, navy and grey chevron or chalk-stripe wool.

Jackets are crisp and collarless, either short or longer and nipped at the waist. They have more shape than in the past, with less severe shoulders. Vivid colors (neon green, fuchsia, eggplant and crisp primaries) — often combined with black — add zing to the season.

More conservative jackets look like English riding coats — complete with velvet trim.



Mayor Vera Danyluk of Town of Mount Royal, and Mayor May Cutler of Westmount meet in Montreal city hall. Photos, including cover, by VALERIE TETLEY



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Accessories help make 'easy style' easy

Bid farewell to the flowers and frills. Fashion gets down to business this season, taking on a confident, spirited attitude with longer skirts, flowing trousers and short, fitted jackets.

Cheerful excesses of blossoms, bows and ruffles will go the way of white leather pumps once the leaves start their fall transformation. But a more serious air doesn't have to mean dull dressing, especially where accessories are concerned.

The trick this season, designers say, is to fine-tune your accessories. Since you'll be wearing only a few, well-thought-out pieces, it's essential that you pack your choices with loads of fashion impact and savvy.

Ralph Lauren calls the new look easy style in *Vogue* magazine, and defines it in terms of a suit worn with a scarf at the neck and a shawl tossed over the jacket. At Byblos, it's simply a high belt placed strategically over a defined waistband, giving the waist more attention than ever before.

The good news is that designers have given you plenty to work with,

whether you're establishing entirely new looks or simply updating the best from seasons past.

Depending on your favorite mood or mode, you can suit yourself with updated accessories galore, everything from understated, elegant wardrobe additions to knock-'em-dead accessories designed to make or break fashion rules in an unforgettable way.

And because of its stormy reputation, the fall/winter season is filled with extras that prove themselves to be as functional as they are fashionable.

Following are a few of the trends to consider for the upcoming cool weather season:

Under wraps

You can raise the fashion thermostat a few degrees with one of the season's newest shawls or wraps. Forget the clichés about crocheted creations that look better in the recesses of one's closet than on the street; this season's well-dressed

wraps are rich in colors such as deep purples, crimsons and assorted shades of green.

Let your wrap fall gracefully about your coat, jacket or cape, gently drape it around your neck and over your head for a makeshift but trendy hood or twist it around your shoulders and arms.

Some are designed to blend with an entire outfit, so the wrap is merely an extension of a monochromatic or patterned scheme. For just a touch of class and elegance, try a fur or leopard-patterned shoulder wrap, either faux or real.

The scarf set

Scarves play a low profile this season — their duty is mainly to add a bit of color or texture to an already well-established look. The job is an easy one, since designers have created a crop of luxurious scarves — from shy pastels to virtual works of art à la Hermès — for mixing and matching with every conceivable ensemble.

You can add a relaxed touch to any fall look by flouncing a scarf in a jacket pocket, or tying it around the strap of a bag. And what suit can't benefit from a bit of color at the neck, especially the new tailored suits that offer short, fitted jackets and sweeping skirt lengths? For a feminine touch, Ungaro uses pastel scarves wrapped at the neck... and, of course, finished with a bow.

What a waist

Waists are high and mighty this season, thanks to designers who have turned to high waistlines on trousers and skirts, and shorter, tailored jackets that are tight through the torso. The perfect counterpart to these nowhere-to-hide looks is found

in a belt that's high, wide and definite.

For fall, the most clinching styles are found in textures such as plain or croc-stamped leather and suede in neutral tones such as black, grey or brown. A bit more lighthearted are those accented with bold chains, tassels or animal prints or that completely wrap the waist with a three- to four-inch band of color.

Tête-à-tête

Hairstyles may be long, simple and understated for fall, but designers are simply mad about hats.

Thus, they've come up with a brimful of possibilities. You can keep your fashion formula for success under your hat whether you sport one of the wildly geometric follies or a more traditional style, such as the fedora, the fur Cossack or the beret.

For glove of fashion

No matter what each designer cites as the most important fashion trend for fall, most agree on one thing — the importance of the glove. After all, gloves literally bring color and style to the wearer's fingertips.

With tassels, decorative stitching, cuffs and gauntlet styles, gloves go far beyond their duty as hand protectors.

If it's co-ordinating or contrasting you have in mind, choose gloves in a jewel tone, keeping in mind your favorite jacket, cape or blouse.

Meanwhile, more conventional fall colors, such as brown suede, black leather or wool knit, evoke feelings of warmth, tradition and will lend themselves to many outfits and for many falls to come.

For evening, gloves go glitzy with richness in fabrics, embroidery and piping-perfect complements to the long, flowing skirt-pants, braided boleros and chiffon skirts designed to come out at night.

Purse-uing the bag

Purses may be the only accessory that has a slight sense of humour. Look for constructed bags that match the pattern in skirts or jackets so well they could almost be called camouflage.

Opt for geometric handbags, quilted satchels, toolbox-type purses that almost look like lunchboxes and for evening, elegant envelopes. The best are small, simple and unobtrusive.

Eye spy

The newest offerings in eyewear boast stronger angles, classic colors and new interpretations of the traditional to wear with the longer, leaner fashions.

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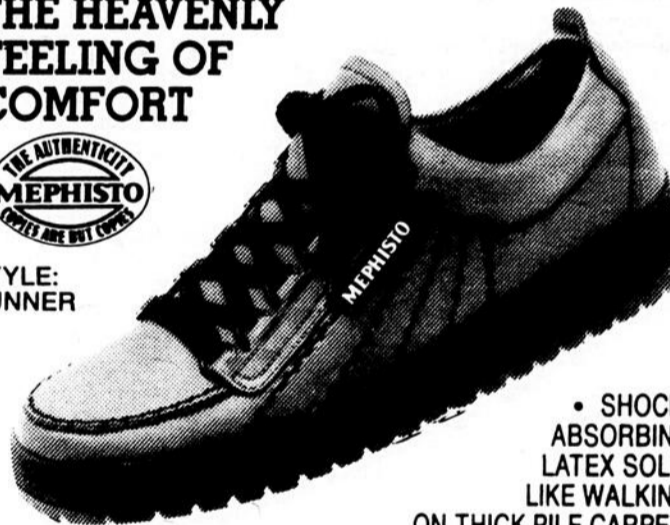
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Comfort the catchword for casual clothes

For after work, weekends and play, your priority is comfort. Clothes are no exception.

During cool seasons, comfy equates with warm, soft and flexible — words that describe the new casual dresses, jackets, sweaters, pants, fabrics and flirty fun fashions. The style keynotes of fall/winter sports-wear include:

- Pants topped by sweaters
- Mixed patterns (plaids, checks, florals, stripes or polka dots)
- Bold colors, simple lines
- Leather and animal-print accessories
- Darker denim, or denim that is frayed and bleached
- Tie-dyed stockings and T-shirts
- Red-ribbed teddy bears — as an accessory and as a fabric pattern
- Black turtlenecks plus black pants, combined with vivid jackets and cardigans
- Skirts of any width and length — but banish the full ankle-skimmers of two seasons ago.

"Fall sweaters are of the plain vanilla variety — pullovers and turtlenecks in solid colors," says fashion columnist Mary Gottschalk.

But plain doesn't necessarily mean boring.

Texture and draping create interest. Knits are shirred, ribbed, cable, puckered and oh-so-soft.

The mood is casually chic. Angora caresses in shades of avocado and rust, icy pink and purple, accented with tufts of fur and feathers.

Short sweaters button down the front and resemble little boiled wool Austrian jackets.

In addition to turtlenecks, there are also soft cowls, simple jewel and scarf necks.

Sweaters are backdrops: A skinny rib-knit, for example, sets the stage for rows and rows of necklaces.

Patterned sweaters are few and far between. The exception is argyle.

Sleeves are either straight, dolman or leg-of-mutton (they fit snugly from wrist to elbow, then balloon out from elbow to shoulder).

Look for fun trims: gold swirls, bows, roses, tassels, pom-poms, fringe.

Go monochromatic: team a solid-color cowl-neck sweater with a large loose cardigan, stretch knit pants and matching socks. Secure your ponytail with a print scarf or pin a contrasting colored silk flower at the neck.

Stock up on cashmere, and cherish what you already have. It's more valuable than ever. According to the knitwear industry, costs for all 15 grades of raw cashmere have esca-

lated this year. Supplies are uncertain; it's anyone's guess when the sources — cashmere goats that climb Himalayan plateaus — will become plentiful.

Outdoor outfits

Play golf or take a brisk walk in full, knee-length wool plaid pants. Add a print blouse topped with a solid-colored cardigan. Finish the look with a soft knit hat, knee socks and sporty leather gloves and shoes.

Go day-cruising in clear colors, clean lines: top wide-leg salmon suede pants with a mauve, mid-thigh double-breasted fitted jacket. Combine black pants, a canary or crimson shell, and a black-and-white check jacket.

Stroll along the beach in sneakers, ankle socks, a knee-skimming knit skirt and two soft, cotton sweaters: a shell under a cardigan.

On a romantic weekend getaway, tuck a black-and-white dolman-sleeved blouse into a button-up-the-back black mini-skirt. Or a simple turtleneck with high-waisted, crinkly pleated, cotton/rayon trousers.

Fiestas and rodeos

There's warm wind blowing from south of the U.S. It brings lace and bright colors, floral prints and fringes, bolero jackets, shawls and serapes, pants that are high-waisted or toreador-styled, splashy flowers on lapels and slicked-back hair.

Treador pants are best in black. Add opaque black stockings and black flats, a wide elastic belt and a vivid shirt. Pass the castanets.

In keeping with the fiesta spirit, iridescent taffeta has black flocking. Flowers bloom on one-piece cotton/Spandex skirted bodysuits.

Passementerie trim shows up as

swirls of Spanish-inspired black braid along the shoulders and side hems of dresses and jackets.

Fringe is the season's fun flourish. It hangs from black sombreros and black lace shawls. It graces Annie Oakley-inspired suede jackets, the yokes of blouses and sleeves and saddle blanket skirts.

Other wild west fashion influences include short jackets and vests with double hems, cowboy boots as a pattern motif (as well as a shoe style), and red bandannas.

American denim

This season, denim jackets have aviator bomber styling and flannel linings. They tease with novelty accents such as pins, patches, buttons and painted designs.

New texture treatments bleach and fray the fabric so it looks well worn and comfy.

A fashion must-have is a pair of classic five-pocket jeans dyed indigo or midnight blue. Proportions vary from skin-hugging to wide, cigarette legs, Hollywood-waisted baggies, paper bag jeans.

Your denim dress will be midnight blue, off the shoulder and short.

Toasty tips

For optimum warmth outdoors, stick to three layers: silk or a synthetic fibre close to skin, a bulky wool or tightly knit cotton sweater next and a loose-fitting layer on top.

Stock up on turtlenecks. Body heat is easily lost at the neck.

Wear a roomy wool sweater over a silk turtleneck. Then knot a knit shawl around your shoulders.

It's true that 80 percent of body heat can be lost if your head is unprotected; be sure you cover it with a cap or scarf.

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Fancy-colored diamonds

Fancy-colored diamonds, the rarest of all, are attracting attention. Peter Schneirla, Tiffany's vice-president in charge of jewelry and the firm's chief gemologist, has one customer who collects fancy-colored diamonds and calls on a regular basis looking for them. Sometimes she purchases them sight unseen.

Kingly homburg

Britain's King Edward VII (1841-1910) popularized the homburg, a soft felt hat originally made in Homburg, Prussia, where the monarch liked to go to take the waters at the spas. The homburg has a crown dented front to back and a stiff, slightly curved brim.

Let fashion make you slimmer, younger

Are birthdays becoming painful? Are you collecting pounds and wrinkles with the addition of each candle on your birthday cake?

If you've already celebrated the 11th anniversary of your 29th birthday, your fashion stance probably is betraying you.

How long you've been 29 — or 39

— and holding (and holding) is evident from your perfectly preserved doubleknit pantsuit to those dozen gold chains around your neck, or those skinny gold hoops in your ears.

Chances are that when you bought that pantsuit back in the early '70s, you were slimmer. Now you've got a few lumps and love

handles that even doubleknit polyester can't hide.

And those tiny gold chains and earrings that you never, ever remove are working like neon signs, flashing the message that you haven't read a fashion magazine in a dozen years.

For those feeling fat and 40, here are a few ways to look 10 pounds

thinner and 10 years younger — without dieting or exercising.

• Take a crash course in fashion. Read local newspaper fashion sections to see what's current in your community.

Take an afternoon off to read magazines such as *Harper's Bazaar*, *Glamour* and *Seventeen*. *Bazaar* will tell you what designers are showing in New York and Paris. *Glamour* will show what's hot with young professionals. *Seventeen* will warn you how not to look (dressing that young will add 10 years).

When reading, study how the models are dressed and, most important, how their ensembles are acces-

sorized. Note that nobody wears suntan-colored stockings.

• Think thin. Clothes that are roomy are slimming and clothes that are tight are fattening. Be aware that vertical lines tend to make you look taller and therefore, slimmer.

Long cardigan-style sweaters, long, unbuttoned blazers and anything that keeps the eye going up and down rather than left and right will be slenderizing.

Also weightless is a monochromatic color scheme in which your top, bottom, stockings and shoes are in the same tones.

It's referred to as tone-on-tone dressing, and fabrics don't have to match, just coordinate. In fact, when



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Youngsters can look stylish and still be comfortable in the many different choices available this season, such as this outfit by Harley modelled by Keisha Hinds, 6½.

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fabrics and colors match too perfectly, it shows your age.

• Be a skirt and trousers expert. Never, ever buy anything without taking a painfully good look at your backside.

And know your figure problems so you can shop accordingly. If you want to look younger and thinner, avoid A-line skirts and tight jeans.

To hide big hips and thighs, try a long straight skirt or a full swingy skirt. A skirt with small knife (never accordion-sized) pleats going in the same direction with a long sweater is another good camouflage.

To conceal a thick waist and midriff, consider a trumpet- or tulip-style skirt.

In either case, skirts will look best if they're hemmed just below the knee or at the ankle. Miniskirts are for anyone under 25, so forget them.

If your figure is less than perfect, you'll want trousers that are full and pleated at the waist and straight from the hip.

• Think young. But keep in mind that you are trying to shed 10 years — not 30. Take off the scarves pinned on the shoulder with a circle pin or tied at the neck. Then toss the designer-initialed items (including the handbag) and start wearing something new and fresh.

Big sweaters with shoulder pads are youthful, but those flat-knit clingy Grace Kelly twin sets are not. Pushed up sleeves are youthful. Blouse cuffs turned back over sweater sleeves are aging.

Long, swinging cardigans are youthful, but short, cropped sweaters with teddy bears on the front are not. Stripes are contemporary and youthful, but polka dots and tiny hearts are juvenile.

• Dress with color. In general, pastels are for babies and grandmas. Bright clear colors, often referred to as crayon colors, are regarded as youthful, vital and happy.

Just don't get carried away with too many prints, unless it's a Susan Freis for Assorti dress, which happens to be very youthful and slimming. Esprit sportswear is also young at heart because of the bold graphics and bright colors.

• Wear youthful jewelry. In this case, less is better. A Cartier watch with a black leather band or a sporty silver/gold stretch band model by Rolex is the ultimate in chic watches, but there are others to serve your purpose.

Trade your gold-toned bracelet style for a smart, fun watch by Swatch or Calvin Klein, but stay away from those cutesy digitals with cartoon characters.

Wear the watch loose like a bracelet and opt for the larger men's size instead of the women's model.

Instead of wearing every gold chain your husband, son and grandchildren ever gave you at the same time, wear just one — or none.

Unless it's an important key item in your ensemble (meaning big and bold) a necklace really isn't a fashion choice this year. Instead, opt for large costume jewelry earrings or a fabulous fake jeweled pin worn on a blazer pocket or lapel.

Also dated are those little charm holders full of dangly charms on a tiny gold chain, the floating heart charm or the Italian good luck horn. Other items to be discarded are those plastic beads with matching earrings and bangle bracelets.

Unless you're a bank executive, tiny gold hoops, pearl and diamond studs and tiny gold hearts and butterfly earrings are not only aging, but boring. Antique-looking fake jewel earrings are still current, but only when worn with the correct outfit.

Another age giveaway is a tiny gold chain worn on the ankle. It announces to the world that you wore it as an adult in 1950. Not quite as bad are those little chains worn around the wrist.

If you want to look younger and full of fashion savvy, don't load your fingers with rings. A wedding ring on the left hand, a simple, tasteful ring on the right is enough.

No-nos are stacks of dainty gold wire rings, pinkies and school rings. Fabulous fakes have their place, but it's not in the office or the supermarket.

• Be well shod. First of all, do not match your shoes and handbag. Second, do not wear shoes that you know are frumpy but comfortable. If comfort is your primary goal it means you've given up on looking attractive.

To look younger and thinner, pick a pair of pumps with a medium, slim heel and slightly pointed toes. The rounder the toes and the higher the vamp, the older you look. Even worse than frumpy is looking too hard in a pair of spike-heeled mules.

Basic taupe or beige pumps or square, flat-heeled sandals that are worn with everything also date you. Youthful ideas are black patent, red or classic spectator two-tones. Also fun are sneakers or flats.

• Get a new purse. If you can afford an expensive designer initialed handbag, it usually means you're over 40.

If you're looking for status, spend the same amount of money on a

designer bag that's fun — without initials or trademarks.

Opt for large patent leather carryalls, a soft crushable clutch style or a swingy shoulder bag. Think thin, with a color that matches your clothing, or young, with bright colors and patterns.

• Build a youthful foundation. Those corsets with bones and metal spikes may make you appear to have a waist, and those crisscross bras with metal wires may hoist you up, but you're not fooling anybody. What's youthful and slimming is a body stocking, or a minimizer bra.

Also flattering are heavy full slips that skim over the body and allow clothes to drape well. Panties with a back seam are also beneficial but be sure to get full-size styles instead of bikinis, which create bulges on a less-than-perfect bottom.

Instead of a girdle, try pantyhose with tummy control or support hose, which will support more than

varicose veins. Matching the shade of your hose to your hemline and shoes is also slimming.

• Face up to new ideas. A woman's makeup is a strong clue to her age. Many women continue to wear their makeup exactly the way they did in high school or college when they felt their prettiest. Unfortunately, faces change as well as fashions and what was once complementary is now detrimental to one's appearance.

Particularly aging are frosted eye shadows, harsh painted-on eyeliner, false eyelashes, too thin, too arched brows, frosted nail polish, too dark foundation and brownish-orange cheek color.

The well-chiselled, very overdone look is passé, as are clawlike fingernails with jewels and decals.

What's fashion-forward are short, blunt nails with a French manicure, or painted red. Also current is a well-manicured, well-buffed set of nails.

Getting a free makeup demonstra-

tion at a department store is helpful, especially if you watch the artist's application but use only about half as much shadow and blush for daytime.

While it won't be free, a lesson at a leading salon in makeup application could wipe off years as well as pounds.

• Don't get a poodle. We're talking hairstyle here, and if you want to look younger, do not allow anyone to give you a poodle perm. Or a bubble.

If you had dark hair when young you'll probably want it colored lighter, at least around the face.

Avoid all-over frosting and bright red or platinum tints, as they're too harsh.

Regarding bangs: try the look before cutting. Some stylists swear they're youthful and hide forehead lines; others say it's a clue that you are trying to look young.

For more help in changing your image, see a personal image consultant or personal shopper.



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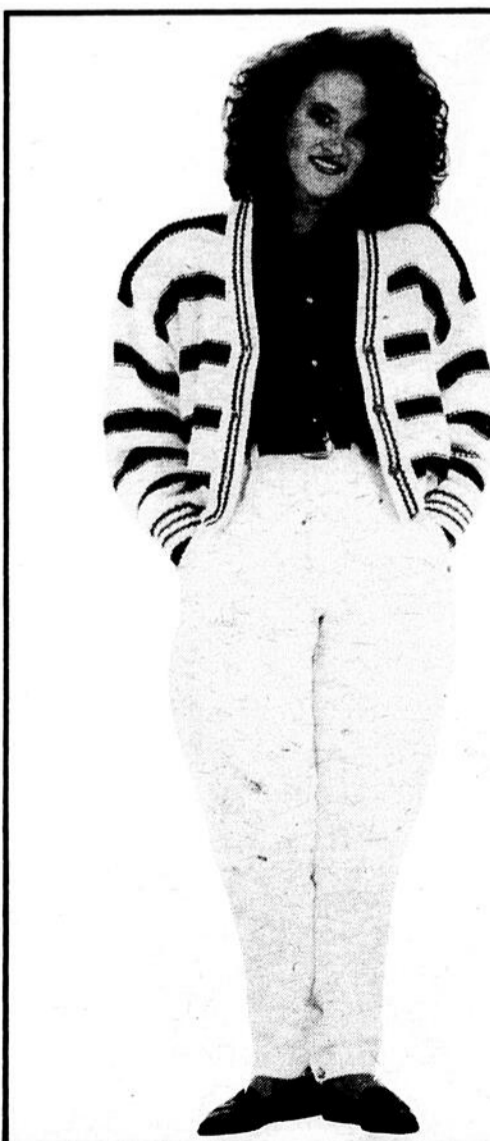
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Neon colors hot for ski slopes

Remember when your mother put you in a bright red snowsuit so that you could be easily spotted in the snow?

Well, this year you should opt for teal, yellow, purple or hot pink.

Dapper skiers will schuss down the slopes this winter in dazzling neon colors.

"People are getting more adventurous," says one ski industries spokesman. "Colors have been getting brighter over the last few years."

In many ways, skiwear mirrors mainstream fashion. Skiers who head down the slopes in vibrant green and purple will be in fashion

step with those heading off to work.

For example, Christian Lacroix's Aztec patterns also show up on the slopes.

In past seasons, jaunty snow bunnies and their partners embraced bright primary colors and simple patterns. Now they will stand out in neon hues of orange, turquoise and fuchsia.

Purple and yellow will be right at home. Teal is the newest shade on the slopes this season for both men and women.

"The colors and designs are getting bolder," says Mr. Palmer, although he says that the colors for

women's skiwear are brighter and more varied than for men.

To accent these brilliant shades, look for jackets, sweaters and wind-breakers with bold graphic designs.

Don't overlook free-spirited graffiti patterns and paint-brush strokes, which it is forecast will be very big this year.

Keep your color scheme in mind when shopping for gloves, headbands, hats, sunglasses and goggles, all of which feature the season's intense new colors.

The color and pattern revolution doesn't stop with clothing. This year's skis, boots and bindings are fashion statements themselves, taking their cue from ski clothing.

Hardcore performance-oriented skiers might be surprised to find that

all the top manufacturers, including Elan, Head, Rossignol and Tyrolia, have imbued their products with strong, non-traditional colors and graphics.

Not to worry, manufacturers haven't sacrificed technical quality. They simply have recognized that technical innovation alone doesn't sell skis anymore.

"Looking at next year's gear, it's clear that color and cosmetics will be the key in skis, boots and bindings," say the experts at *Ski* magazine. "Those neon purples, greens, yellows and pinks will dress up some significant technical advances."

The marketing challenge, *Ski* magazine says, is to "get graphic or get out-classed."

In fact, bindings, once considered a mundane necessity, are now offered in a myriad of colors to coordinate with skis and boots. So the whole ensemble of clothing, skis, boots and bindings is natter than ever before.

The cut of parkas and powder suits plays an important role this year. The skin-tight Lycra-inspired clothing of past seasons has given way to more styling and tailoring.

Shoulders on parkas and powder suits are softly padded to give them a snappier look. Leggings are baggier, particularly for lighter windshells when the sun warms up the slopes.

When leggings are more form-fitting, they're topped by a slightly oversized parka or pullover shell.

Jackets or suits that button or zip up to enhance an asymmetric pattern also have a bit more style.

Apart from the noticeably different colors and styling, look for improved technology in the fabrics manufacturers use. The technology of the fabrics is moving toward the



Bright and snappy skiwear can make you king or queen of the hill this season.

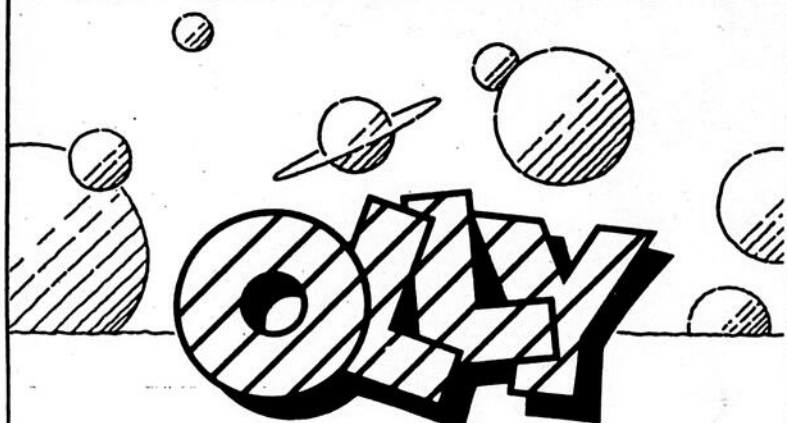
optimum balance of waterproof protection and breathability.

Lighter wind-breaking nylon and more efficient insulating materials will keep skiers warm and prevent them from getting too hot under the sun.

If you really want to be the hottest looking on the slopes, look for clothing made with Sway, a new fabric that changes color with the temperature. Sway is nylon coated with temperature-sensitive dye.

Primarily used to accent parkas and powder suits, the fabric might be white while you relax in the lodge and turn red when you're out on the slopes.

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Court ladies waisted little

If you wanted to be a lady in the French court of Queen Catherine de Medici (1519-89) you had to have a wasp waist. Ladies were smaller in those days, and Catherine decreed a standard waist measure of 13 inches.

The smallest recorded waist for women of normal stature in the 20th century is a reported 13 inches in the cases of French actress Mlle. Polaire (1881-1939) and Mrs. Ethel Granger of Peterborough, England, born in 1905. Mrs. Granger reduced her waist from 22 inches to 13 between 1929 and 1939.

Pooch perfume

A New York pet salon, Le Chien, sells scents for dogs at designer prices. Martine, a jasmine-and-tuberose blend for the female, costs \$38.50 for 3.3 ounces in a crystal sprayer; Christophe, for the male, sells for \$30.

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Fabulous mix of colors offered for fall

Remember when a beige blouse was the automatic choice to wear with a brown suit?

When only the boldest redhead would dare to wear purple?

When older women were expected not only to act their age but also dress their age and look as inconspicuous as possible?

If there's one thing the recent miniskirt debacle has proven, it's that women refuse to be pigeonholed. Gone is the willingness to follow arbitrary fashion rules.

Women today are sufficiently self-confident to make fashion choices based on what they feel is suitable for their lives, their figures and their personalities.

That means they're willing to experiment with color. This fall, though many of the designs follow simple, classic lines, they're far from dull. A good deal of the fashion interest comes from the fabulous mix of colors.

Consider, for instance, the color brown, which has been making a gradual return to the fashion scene. Brown has now truly arrived; the extraordinary choices this fall range from the very deepest seal brown to raw umber, cocoa, lion, amber, even topaz.

How are these warm, rich browns being shown to best advantage? They're being mixed with some of fall's vibrant shockers — the kind of bright, exuberant colors that Christian Lacroix first drew together in crazy but wonderful combinations. Lacroix continues to be an influence this season.

Among the shockers that go beautifully with brown are the yellows — cadmium, golden yellow and dandelion — and the oranges — tiger-lily orange and mandarin.

Plaids and patterns are much in evidence, putting colors together in unexpected ways.

Browns are also being worn with purple — yes, purple — in exciting new combinations. The purple-and-brown combo shows how the cycle of colors works to continually revitalize us.

Now that browns have been around for a while, we've become

somewhat accustomed to them. But purples, which haven't been strong for a few years, are just re-emerging. Added to browns, they lend a fresh new look.

Purple is in

Purple is evident in all the European collections this fall, in wide variations that sweep from the most vibrant to the deepest prune purple.

The colors in the violet range are surely the sleepers of this fashion season; such gorgeous shades as prism violet, amethyst orchid, grape and mauve mist have really ascended.

The pink family, strong in spring and summer, retains its appeal into the fall. It is most prominent in a refreshing azalea pink, but magenta also continues to be hot.

No discussion of fall's vibrant shades can overlook red. In this case, we're seeing a magnificent true red called Mars red.

In fact, the popularity of red is going to many women's heads. Red hair is definitely in, bringing along a resurgence of colors that go with it so beautifully, such as auburn, amber, topaz and peach bloom.

In contrast to years past, today's redhead can — and will — wear purple, as long as it appeals to her and she feels good in it.

One color making a bold comeback is green, which began to appear this spring after a period of quiescence. Greens aren't quietly tiptoeing their way onto the fashion scene; they're absolutely exploding, with exquisite variations.

There is lapis, for instance, which is a slightly warmer turquoise than we're accustomed to seeing. And ceramic green — a wonderful vibrant aqua.

Another aqua, slightly softer than ceramic, is aqua sky; to picture it, imagine a blue sky that's gone a bit toward green.

One of the most sophisticated greens this fall is fairway, a deeply saturated shade reminiscent of the rich carpets of greenery that make golf courses so pleasing to the eye.

By LEATRICE EISEMAN

And in the other direction is iceberg green, with the delicacy of light as it shines through an iceberg.

And, of course, there are the neutrals, which add flexibility to every wardrobe.

This fall's neutrals are still primarily warm. There are some in the traditional fall colors, such as maple sugar and toasted almond.

There is a lovely shade of buff. And there is also an appetizing peach bloom, a beige with a nice peach quality that, as we mentioned, is lovely on redheads.

The wonderful neutrals are evident as well in two warm taupes — one light, the other deep.

And also important is autumn blonde, which is this season's winter white. As in the past two years, white this fall and winter is a big fashion statement; it's a neutral that lends a welcome, uplifting note as the weather turns dreary. Like the very bright vivid, it punctuates and sets off the deeper shades.

These deeper shades — the greens, the earth colors — point to a strong folkloric influence in today's fashions. Borrowing from India, Africa and Russia, the deeper tones are placed against the brights for contrast.

Black: a fashion classic

Also wonderful when accented with explosive bright colors is black, which remains, as always, a fashion classic. Shown in all the fall collections, black is especially evident for evening, elegant in its many manifestations — beribboned, embroidered, loaded with lace trim or unadorned.

Greys also provide a lovely base on which to build with many different vibrant colors. Among the neutral greys this fall are griffin grey and charcoal.

Blues are not heavily favored this season, but those who love blue won't be disappointed; a light slate

blue called tourmaline is a lively shade that combines elegantly with browns and neutral beiges. It also helps make the transition from summer to fall.

A person loathe to bid farewell to summer can select a garment of tourmaline, another of azalea, and wear both with maple sugar. That bit of alchemy uses the freshness of summer to ease the way into fall.

And how about the woman who likes understated dressing but wants to use slightly unconventional colors? Here's an outfit drawn from the same color palette: a suit in maple sugar, a blouse in mauve mist and a soft, tasteful, but interesting scarf that combines mauve mist, aqua sky and peach bloom. Finished off with a seal brown shoe and matching hosiery, the look is at once reserved and smashing.

One of the most refreshing developments in fashion is that the same woman can look reserved — and smashing — one day and outrageously whimsical the next. Friday's

brown leather pumps give way to Saturday's royal blue sneakers, and the rest of the outfit follows suit.

And the woman is willing to indulge her wish to feel good by choosing soft-textured fabrics that appeal to the sense of touch. Our love affair with texture continues, interwoven with our love for color.

So these are exciting times in the fashion world. Though the prevalence of warm colors still points to our need to seek refuge from uncertainty, the color picture as a whole points to a brave and growing sense of confidence.

Regardless of age, occupation or prior assumptions, women are showing a willingness to experiment, to reach out, and to expand their personal horizons more than ever before.

Leatrice Eiseman is executive director of the Pantone Color Institute, a not-for-profit organization created to study the psychology of color and the color preference process.



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