Zeitschrift: Textiles suisses [Édition multilingue]

Herausgeber: Textilverband Schweiz

Band: - (1980)

Heft: 41

Artikel: The spring-summer collections 80 : proportions take on another look

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-795261

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PROPORTIONS

Even though the latest Coats remain slim fashion trends revealed in the Haute Couture collections have nothing revolutionary about them, there is nevertheless a very marked change - a change in the proportions. Hems have become moveable, swirling around knee level, sometimes above, sometimes just below, at other times high in front and low at the back. The same mobility applies to waistlines, which wander from Empire level down to the hips. The consequence — a striking change in a woman's proportions — takes a little getting used to. On the whole, Couture has chosen the path back to elegance, quality and femininity, seen above all in the two leading collections of Yves Saint Laurent and Hubert de Givenchy.

Suits as popular as ever

Shoulders are still slightly marked, but — except at Cardin's — they are mainly softer and more rounded. Jackets are sometimes short, sometimes double-breasted or even edge to edge. Long jackets tend to follow the body shape loosely, without moulding it at all. Bolero and spencer styles are rare. Blazers - with long pointed lapels or shawl collars - and simple cardigans are as fashionable as ever, the former often decorated with a half-belt. Skirts are mostly narrow, but vary between wrap-around, sun-pleated, box-pleated and bell shaped. Under the jacket are worn strapless tops, T-shirts and very feminine blouses with bows at the neck or little stand-up collars in silk fabrics, both plain and figured or with prints in small repeats. Stripes are the height of fashion. Pants are reserved mainly for the leisurewear sector, where there are many shorts, bermudas or cor-

Often in shirt-blouse styles, they also come in the form of swagger-coats or narrow chesterfields. Their length ranges from just below the knee to 3/4 length. However there are far more jackets than coats to accompany this season's dresses.

Asymmetric effects, flounces and ruching

These are the outstanding features of the new swirlfrom morning till evening. delicately enveloped in number. soft fabric petals. Bare shoulders, deep décolletés and discreet glimpses of bare flesh add a sensual look to many models. There are also slinky sheaths, tunic outfits and once again many more two-piece outfits for day and cocktail wear.

Long, narrow tops are just as popular as exaggeratedly loose Charleston waists; shirtwaisters are more feminine than ever; white trimmings and dainty buttonhole flowers are legion, while elbowlength sleeves are back in fashion again. Dior's sailor-look adds a dash of

Prominence of Swiss novelties

Once again the contribution made by the Swiss textile industry to the new fashions is considerable. The Couture showings again featured over 400 models created with Swiss fabrics and embroideries. Novelties like chintzed shantung - which can be

considered as an offshoot of taffeta - with large floral prints in bright and luminous colour combinations or a fine guipure which shines and shimmers in softly matching metallic colours achieved by means of a new process, aroused great interest. Stiffer fabrics like gazar, grosgrain and Moroccan crêpe are used, without ousting the lovely supple crêpe de Chines, the soft silk mousselines, chiffons and georgettes, whose enchanting prints ing spring and summer create a neo-Romantic dresses that can be worn look and an aura of femininity. Just as original as Asymmetry prevails not the fabrics are the embroionly in the diagonal cuts deries whose beauty helps but in the arrangement of to emphasize the luxuflounces and ruching. The riousness of the couture later in the day it is, the models and the great vamore fluttering panels and lue of knowhow and qualribbons there are, the ity. The great creativity of more flirtatious the swirl- Swiss specialities serves ing flounces twining lia- talented fashion designers na-like round the body. — not only in Paris but all Bustles are back, some- over the world — as inspitimes in the form of gigan-ration for some of their tic bows, while a new finest models, as so strik-"femme fleur" blossoms ingly shown in the present

Text: Ruth Hüssy Sketches: Urs Schmid



TAKE ON ANOTHER LOOK