

## Spring Fashion Preview



### Suits 'spring in' with soft look

Why are suits younger than springtime? Colors band together—blue with mauve, lime with yellow, white with black. Often, a third color scheme chimes in. In suit jackets, light indentation at the waist leads, but easiness is seen particularly on new short, non-closing jackets. High-contrast contrast with dropped waistlines: bold patterns share honors with solids.

Suit collections have something to flatter everyone, reports the National Board of the Coat and Suit Industry. Despite great diversity, change in silhouettes is so universal that last spring's suits may well look dated.

One area of general agreement in styling seems to be that the ultra-long jacket is out. Shorter lengths in jackets move importantly forward.

Suit shapes trend to silhouette soft and effortless as a spring breeze. The strict tailor-

ing that stems from the Courreges makes an exit in favor of supple ease. Suit skirts prove that it's "A" for excellence, as the A-line shape once again demonstrates its enduring fashion stance. Dirndls and stitched pleats lend variety to A-lines. For the younger set, and their thigh-high skirts, a bit of flare at the hem adds ease.

As costumes move into even greater prominence in fashion, suits join in. Designers offer dresses with jackets, or skirts with vests and blouses, as a part of spring's suit look.

Contrast is the current news in costumes, with less matching, more mixing. Often, three pieces contrast—but with fashion's magic, they all add up to a total look.

Fabrics see double, too—plaids with solids, stripes or checks; checks with stripes. Hard-finished worsteds, or silk

and worsteds, do a solo turn in suits.

Among the interesting suit fabrics are twills, gabardines, shetlands and boucles. Classic tattersalls, checks, plaids, coverts, serge all show a gentle surface.

Suit colors are many and lively: a snow of white; complexion tones; aquas to deep peacock green; powder to navy. Mauve pinks, highly important, shade to raspberry. Sunny yellows range to golds and pimientos. Slates, greiges, spices provide a fall-from-neutral look.

### Handbags have space, luxury

Handbags for spring '66 have a dual focus on fashion: space, and leather.

New bags look small, but space is cunningly utilized for maximum effectiveness. As for leather, all types of leather textures are used—alone or in combination—in styles spanning every price range.

Luxury with practicality is the pleasing result, reports Leather Industries of America.

This season's small-scale bags, and their big sisters, are fashioned of striking grained and embossed leather, delicate smooth leather, velvety waxy leathers, and gleaming lustre and patent leathers.

From these have been crafted satchels, pouches, envelopes, swaggers, totes, box bags and shoulder-strappers.

For double style and space are two trim leather bags attached back-to-back. According to sides may provide even more room. Styling of the bags may be identical, or they may have different closings or added accents of color or leather.

Conventional single satchels, fresh footwear story for men is color. The browns, a popular shoe family, are important—particularly in golden and greenish tones.

For dress, black and blackened burgundy show off fancy footwork. Casual color favorites include palomino tan, gray and navy (in brushed leather) antique gold, and white in combination with black, brown and navy.

### Blunted toeline sets male shoe fashions

In spring '66, the blunted toeline—a full square, rounded-off square of truncated crescent toe—sets the footwear fashion pace for men's shoes. As for the over-all styling picture, shoes generally have an easy look, lighter but still masculine in feeling, reports Leather Industries of America.

Contributing their airiness to the season's collection of slippers, moccasins, oxfords, brogue shoes, boots and sandals are leathers whittled down in weight. These lightweight leathers include smooth, grained, brushed, suede, waxed and embossed textures.

**KNOWS NO CALENDAR**

The slip-on is a springtime winner that walks both the informal and dress paths with equal poise for leisure hours, there's stylish relaxation in grained, glove, waxy and brushed leather slip-ons with hidden gores, high-cut frontage, perforated trim or stitching.

The mighty moccasin—which knows no calendar, no clock—is available as penny loafer or tassel-tie, hand-sewn or machine-sewn, classic or variation. There's even a leather kiltie

moe in a black-and-white combination.

Other crowd-pleasers in the casual department are boots and sandals. Top boot for spring is the rugged chukka, or ankle boot, in brushed leather.

Newest warm weather favorites are sandals in smooth, waxy and grained leathers. Styling details include toerings, thongs, instep bands and straps, hand-stitching.

Dressy versions of the slip-on put fashion emphasis on high-polished smooth or fine-grained leather textures. Detailing is held to medallion or wing tips, and goring.

This spring's brogues look hefty and feel right, thanks to those lightweight leathers. With a full complement of perforations, pinking, long wing tips, stitching and other trim, the brogue is limber and lively on the foot in smooth or grained leather.

Leather oxfords, too—sometimes with a brogueish air, sometimes conventionally simple—make the spring scene. The blunt line, wider and (usually) rounder, predominates in toe silhouettes.

Another facet of the season's



HIP-BELTED CASUAL

envelopes and pouches may gain in carrying capacity through deep gussets or accordion pleats. Trim on these compact yet roomy bags includes handle treatment—chains, rigid construction handles, single or double leather straps—and rich-looking gold or brass closings and other ornamentation.

For a soft feminine effect, the leather may be quilted or shirred.

**Go Informal**

The leather swagger bag with full-depth outside pockets is another space-stretcher for the new season. In both small and large versions, it boasts a full measure of compartments for a lady's necessary paraphernalia.

Pastels and pale neutrals in smooth, grained and embossed leathers give a sunny spring-time look to this year-round favorite.

The bigger handbag, has of course, not been forsaken—especially for sports and casual wear. Sturdy yet smart-looking are larger sized shoulder-strap bags, satchels, pouches or totes.

Decorating this informal group may be two-leather or two-color themes, industrial

zippers, brass trim and heavy stitching.

On festive occasions, feminine fingertips will be holding exquisite clutches, envelopes and pouches in miniature through suedes, lustres, "rep-tile"—embossed leathers and smooth leather.

**PLAN LINK WITH SEA**

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP)—The Italian Fiat motor firm and the Zambian government are to set up a £5,000,000 (\$15,000,000) transport organization in a bid to cut down Zambia's dependence on Rhodesia's vital routes to the coast, it was announced Tuesday. President Kenneth Kaunda said when he opened parliament here that the organization would form the nucleus of a transport network linking land-locked Zambia with the sea.

**DIM LIBRARY BLASTED**

FORT WILLIAM, Ont. (CP)—Peter Mutchler, chief city librarian, strongly criticized the building's decoration at a library board meeting. "It fits the average person's idea of what a library should look like—dull, dreary, colorless," he said. "A most unappetizing picture."

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