

# A Touch of Romance

## Women's styles feature more conservatism

By KERRY DEROGHI

**W**OMEN'S fashions have changed season to season in a never-ending struggle for something new: for styles to reflect the changing role of women in the office and the home.

In the past decade, the executive look has steadily replaced the soft styles of the past, severe lines overshadowing feminine lace and ruffles.

However, this year New York fashion designers predict a movement to the past; to a more romantic era with romantic styles to match the mood. Catherine DiMontezemolo, fashion coordinator for Lord and Taylor of New York, expects the romantic trend to soften the tailored looks prevalent in fashion today.

"The classic look, what we feel is the heritage at Lord and Taylor, will be given a romantic dimension," DiMontezemolo said. "There will be lots of lace and soft ruffled dresses."

DiMontezemolo said the biggest news for the fall will be the kilt to be worn with soft sweaters and blazers. Lace-edged blouses will take the kilt out of the office. Pants will be pleated with no flare in the pant leg.



Warm sweaters and corduroy pants for fall weather  
...Carolyn Sims, Wilma Evans, and Kathy Krege model

Pantsuits will not be looking as masculine, with tweed plaids coordinated to remove the tough look. Dresses will move away from sharp tailored lines and take on a soft, ruffled look with lots of lace.

This season's colors for everyday wear will drift from the "monotone beige and browns" and carry more burgundy and a new navy. DiMontezemolo said Lord and Taylor will introduce a new color, "claret", to complement the brown-gray trend.

Evening wear will receive an exciting dimension, DiMontezemolo said, by romantic evening separates. Ruffled or lace blouses will be purchased to wear with bouffant skirts, either to the calf or full length.

The cocktail dress will not totally replace the full-length dress, but will be important in a wardrobe.

"For the evening, we prefer the soft, paler colors you can wear in the North or the South," DiMontezemolo said. "Brilliant magenta or black and white, and of course bright red, are also essentials."

Area fashion coordinators have incorporated the new romantic look into their fall line of merchandise. Wendy Chipman of Belk-Leggett said styles will still have the traditional cut, but with lace collars to achieve a more feminine appeal.

"The styles will be the basic and traditional," Chipman said. "The way to get away from the look is with a special color; purples and lavender are really good colors this year, along with the plum, magenta and burgundy line."

Chipman said the biggest news will be the role of the cocktail dress in Georgettes and crepes for a dressy look. By putting lace trim on shirt-style dresses, the casual becomes more elegant. For casual wear, the jumper in plaids or solids worn with sweaters will be very important, as will the new kilt worn also with sweaters and blazers.

"In sportswear, there is a de-emphasis on slacks... the pant suit is dead," Chipman said. "A blazer with a solid skirt will be ideal for the suit look."

Hazel Ryder, fashion co-ordinator for Montaldo's, agreed with Chipman on the diminishing role of the pantsuit and said the biggest news in fashion will be the knits and sweaters.

"Just classic sportswear is really important in knits," Ryder said. "No pantsuits; the American woman does not need to be put in the pantsuit anymore."

Although each fashion designer has a favorite style, all agree that the trend for this fall is a return to the more feminine.

Kerry DeRochi is a staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel.

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Kathy Krege, in tartan dress, snaps a shot of friends  
... Wilma Evans, Kathy Holt, Carolyn Sims in Casual Corner clothes

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