

Designers unveil 'Year of The Suit'

The Reuter News Report
PARIS — This is the "Year of the Suit" for Paris haute couture designers, almost all of whom feature easy-going tailored suits in their spring and summer collections.

Yves Saint-Laurent reiterated his highly successful semi-classic approach, showing both slim, knee-length skirts often buttoned in the back or simple mannish trousers with infinitely varied jackets.

Guy Laroche showed some beautifully tailored suits in classic navy blue-with-white, an approach shared by Saint-Laurent, who added a nautical air with gold or silver metal buttons.

The most applauded dresses were plain, black crepe de chine sheaths, some adorned with large rhinestone buttons, wide-cuff bracelets and chandelier earrings.

Other dresses played with soft drapery, side-wrapped surplice effects or deep cowl hoods falling into a flattering low neckline.

A clue to the theme of each collection is often found in the elaborate floral decorations prepared for the show and this year was no exception.

Towering palm trees dripping with tropical flowers underlined Saint-Laurent's South Sea Island look.

Mannequins with long hair flowing down their backs swayed down the **Fluorescent fad has bright future**

By Julie Liska
 Staff Reporter

Picture it: A fluorescent pink sweat-shirt with fluorescent yellow pants, fluorescent orange socks and — oh yes — a nice, bright pair of fluorescent pink and green earrings. Does this turn you on, or turn your stomach? If it turns you on, chances are you're caught up in the "fluorescent fad" that's invading the nation.

Although fluorescent items are selling best among the younger age groups, it is not limited to them. All age groups are going for the eyeshocking colors.

Part of the reason for the success of fluorescents garb is because it is so different. Melanie Koza of Brauns at the Centrum attributes the fad to punk rock stars.

"A lot of the fads come from the rock and roll singers — not because they necessarily like them, but because they just like to be different," Kosa said.

"The fluorescents started with the Michael Jackson look, and slowly became more dressy. Fluorescent clothes have had good success because they're fun and different," said Pam Borne-meier, manager of Brauns at Gateway.

The fluorescent colors and styles of today are reminiscent of the past. Borne-meier said "mothers often come in the store and say 'Oh, I used to have something just like that. I wish I would have saved it.' But as for being exactly the same, there will always be different fabrications and colors."

According to Kiley Arneson, at the Brass Buckle, the shocking colors aren't as popular with men.

catwalk in sarong-draped silk prints with sensuously plunging necklines.

Others wearing solid-toned draped jersey dresses stepped out with short boleros embroidered with exotic ferns and orchids. To complement this, they wore fresh flowers tucked in the hair at one side.

The Saint-Laurent bride, in filmy white organza, ignored the traditional

wedding veil and wore in its place a wreath of white orchids.

In Laroche's collection, the bride was a prototype of the "high-low" hemlines seen in much of his evening wear.

The gown was a short, knee-length sheath in white taffeta with an enormous bow at the back. Its wide streamers flowed down to the floor to form a train.



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