For spring, a lighthearted approach to fashion

The beauty of this spring's dressing is in its broad range of fashion choices, and the options that reflect the freedom of the woman, who is more of an individual than ever before.

Whether they opt for a slim, leather mini or a long and loose floating gown, more and more women are exerting their right to choose in fashion, as they are now doing in many facets of their lives.

So, what you'll be seeing most of in spring, 1982, is what each individual woman chooses to wear, whether short or long, slim or loose. Perhaps the most important thing to remember will be that appropriateness is irrelevant.

Spring fashion options reflect right to choose

The variety of fashion options for this spring begins with the many lengths of skirts and pants. High-rising pants, skirts, and dresses are turning up in full, blouson shapes as well as in slim silhouettes.

Hemline length varies from below the knee up to mid-thigh for both skirts and dresses.

In pants, it rises from the new mid-calf cropped trousers to pedal-pushers and knickers, and then on up to Bermuda's and the sexiest of short shorts.

Easy dressing

This year's version of last year's over-sized tunics are the easy dresses that just reach the top of the knee and are bloused over a wide waist sash or are belted with low slung wraps that make the hip the focal point.

Proportion plays an important part in this spring's relaxed mood, with the simplicity and comfort of a longer tunic over a short, slim skirt.

Soft-falling, unconstructed tops or jackets slide over the hips to mid-thigh and are worn over knee-length narrow skirts.

The shapes are fuller when short is shortened to midthigh or more, and silky sweaters or neat, waist cropped jackets complete the proportion correctly.

What this trend towards shorter lengths means is that we'll be seeing more and more legs bared. There will be a reappearance of the decorated leg, in flocking or fishnet in the brightest of colors or in pristine white.

And, almost-flat shoes are almost always worn with these new short lengths, especially those with low-cut vamps that further lengthen the leg.

Other great fashion options are the long, loose pieces — skirts and culottes — that fall in gentle pleats from the waist to mid-calf or longer.

There are also loose and flowing jackets that stretch to finger tip length to complete a lovely long-over-long proportion.

Pants, too, make an appearance in new, graceful shapes, and almost look like skirts, especially those that fall to somewhere between the ankle and the knee.

Featherweight fabrics

In spring, 1982, designers will be using featherweight fabrics, luscious linens, silks, cottons and cotton poplins, even ultra-thin wools and gabardines.

There is also an easy mixing of texture, such as a silk dress wrapped at the hip in suede or a smooth silk skirt topped with a nubby linen

Colors range from either bold and bright to earth-toned water color washes, grays, rich red clays, and subtle golden tones.

Patterns are paired, combining stripes and dots with floral prints to further expand the wide range of choices for today's woman.



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