

Lingerie market safe from unisex invasion

By DEBRA COOPER
Copley News Service

Male chauvinists take heart - unisex styling may be invading some areas of fashion, but the lingerie and loungewear markets are completely safe from such influences.

New collections to justice to the "total woman" concept, from old-fashioned looks lavished with ruffles, ribbons and bows to frankly sexy silhouettes with low-cut necklines and seductive slits.

These romantic styles are perfect choices for trousseaus and for bridal shower gifts. There's a wide selection, from flowing, full-length nightgowns to brief minis and every length in between.

When assembling a wedding trousseau, include a variety of pieces that won't wrinkle easily when packed for travel, said Mary Vane, marketing manager for DuPont, maker of Monece fabric.

For basics, Vane suggests, "seven pairs of panties and no less than three bras; two or three gown-robe sets and a fleece or casual below-the-knee wrap robe for lounging."

Particularly popular for the bridal set are shorty styles - teddies, chemises and baby dolls - from provocative flyaway styles to demure step-ins. Many have matching cover-ups - both long and short.

Lingerie fabrics should be smooth and non-bulky to be practical, but to be pleasurable, as well, they should feel wonderful next to bare skin. Soft fabrics such as lightweight crepe, crepe de chine, china silk, crepe-back satin, batiste and tricot are recommended.

Some of the finest lingerie on the market today is 100 percent silk. The soft, smooth fabric is lightweight, yet it keeps you warm in cold weather, cool in hot weather. Most silks are hand washable - in fact, washing renews silk fibers and makes them look new again.

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Fan medallion lace outlines the camisole bodice, tap pant legs and robe shoulders in this ensemble by Fernando Sanchez for Allied's Creme de Captiva collection.

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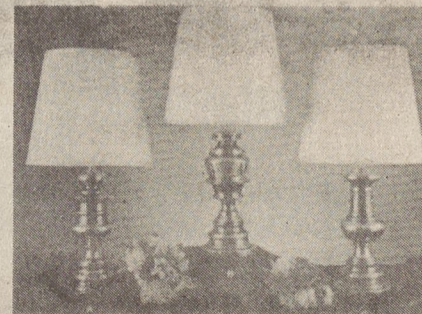
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


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