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ment in the selection of a gown, with bows, bustles, flowers, pearls, V-backs and cutouts just a few of the favored features. Adventurous brides also can consider crisscross and halter backs.

Truly dramatic backs feature big bustles, tiered trains dotted with silk roses or fishtail trains that peak out of a back slit in a skirt.

The best-dressed sleeves are adorned with bows, flowers, pleats, pearls, cutouts, ruffles, sequins and studs, and also are featured as long sleeves formed of floral lace or as the increasingly popular tunnel sleeve.

As for necklines, the off-the-shoulder neckline continues to be a favorite, sharing the spotlight with sweetheart, scoop and illusion necklines. For dramatic detail, look for portrait collars in filmy chiffon or bodices edged in colorful beaded embroidery and metallic threads.

Many of today's brides not only seek fanciful details, they also want dressing versatility. The best showrooms feature dresses with removable elements that give the bride more than one look come wedding day. Detachable over-skirts, collars, gauntlets and trains all make it possible for the bride to change looks without changing dresses — as do jackets that can be worn for the ceremony and removed for reception fun.

While white and ivory still are the primary colors of choice, light pink and pale peach also are colors often selected for wedding gowns. Not only do such colors provide a noticeable flair for the unusual, they also are very becoming to most complexions, more so in some cases than white or ivory.

Satin has become the primary bridal fabric of choice, but the preferred finish is matte rather than glossy. And layers of tulle continue to shape some of the season's prettiest skirts — whether tea length or a train. The newest fabric choices, however, are sheer and light or those that drape beautifully, such as organza, organdy, chiffon, jersey and crepe — creating an overall feel of fluidity and softness.

Lace continues to be important as well, but more as an accent on the bodice or in appliques rather than in an all-over look.

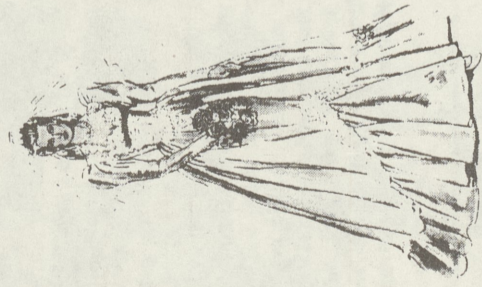
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From This Day Forward



Supplement to
The Dallas Post
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Francesca Stuppino
of Dallas models
a classic gown.

More about the cover on page 4.
Photo by Charlotte Bartizek