

Overview of bridal fashion for spring/summer '88

The look-ups for spring/summer '88 bridal fashion is shaping up to be purely feminine and romantic with a "less is more" approach that will substitute the ornamentation of past seasons, according to *Bride's* magazine.

The new clean-lined, sculpted animals will feature details like open necklines, peeling-wrap waists and billowing skirts. Features a well-tended garden, carefully thought-out...continued...always neatly groomed.

Softer colors

The pastel story that emerged last spring continues, but brides and wedding attendants—only this season, the garden palette is in full bloom. Look for whiter pinks, along with classic whites.

• *Air Travel Blues*—Delicate, barely there pinks such as Pink Carnation, Morning Glory Blue, Buttercup, Pale Peach and Silver. Mint Green are considered and soft.

• *Building Bridges*—Irresistibly delicious hues such as Yellow Freesia, Magnolia Pink, Seaburn Green, Pomey Pink, Lilac. Considered Blue are vibrant, yet considered.

• *San-Kisser's night*—High-intensity hues such as Daffodil, Marigold, Tiger Lily, Poppy, Pansy, Plum, Violet, Sham-

rock, Delphinium. Hydrangeas make a very rich, strong statement.

• *Striking Be Colors*—High contrast color combos such as navy paired with white or beige provide a fresh, clean look.

Emphasis on textural interest

Texture is key this coming spring. It's so important that the fabric itself becomes the story, its look and hand clearly influencing the reading design.

Watch for last spring's move in the neutral direction to really blossom.

Among the standouts: Fabric with packers or crinkles, fluted fabric, cotton, denim, tulle, matelassé, brocade, jacquard, dupion, shantung, gauze and crumpled paper silk.

Also watch for high-contrast fabrics played together—especially textures against sheers. The ultimate contrast is a textured sheer, employing texture to add newness to a traditional bridal fabric like organza.

Of sheer importance this season are organic, organically, voilé, geometric, chiffon, ribbon sheers, shadow-striped and cross-dotted sheers, pleated sheers, point d'esprit, embossed and fluted tulle, sheer with re-considered lace and tex-

ured cotton batiste.

Additional fabric trends to note:

• Laces with added texture—such as coutaiche or ribbon lace used in accents—on a bodice, a skirt panel, a train.

• Fused-down metallics—always with texture.

• Three-dimensional textures.

• Textures combined with stretch—the absolute newest combo around.

• More refined silhouettes

Spreading up this season are romantic, new soft silhouettes that go hand in hand with the new softened colors and lighter fabrics.

Among the key trends are:

• *The Goddess*—Inspired by mythology, this classic, draped look couples simplicity with romance. Flowing lines and diaphanous fabrics reveal the figure in a tasteful way.

• *The Girl of Irons*—Feminine, with a naive but naughty sensuous, this "Slopped" style features a wrap waist, exposed shoulders and a full skirt, complete with tulle crinolines.

Key shapes and details include:

• An appealing new softness, characterized by the cinched waist, the trapezoid back, the fit and flare of the princess sil-

houette, elongated peplums and body-wrapping styles.

• A focus on décolletage, evidenced by off-the-shoulder looks, air ruffles, sweetheart and face-framing portrait necklines, and flyaway collars.

• Gentle skirting, in the form of full skirts with sweep trains, swing A-lines, tulips, sheerer hemlines and updated sheaths with flippy, petal-shaped overlays that reveal the body line underneath.

• Style note: Cascades of soft tiers look fresher than ruffles for spring.

A sense of whimsy

Among the continuing trends are:

• Bows, still cropping up at the shoulder, on a bodice. They're even newer in production—almost woven into a neckline or hem.

• Silk flowers as adornment on dresses, blossoming in pale pinks against white.

French approaches to watch for include:

• Fabric gossamer—sassy ruffles touches for dresses, hair sheers.

• Butterflies—especially for the truly adventuresome—such as a sheer butterfly delicately poised upon a shoulderful of flowers.



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