

# Will Canadians accept silhouette?

By MARGARET NESS

NEW YORK (CP)—The tent silhouette is back. Probably Canadians won't be wearing it until spring. We always have to see a style in newspaper and magazine photographs for at least six months before we're willing to gamble on it.

But 10 days of concentrated fall fashion showings in New York have placed the tent silhouette right in the forefront. It appeared in all the collections.

It isn't always called a tent. One fashion writer renamed it the wigwam, as more appropriate for North America. Many of the designers referred to it as the pyramid. This word seemed more in keeping than tent with the return-to-elegance theme noticeable in most of the collections. Other designers came up with dome. For those who were holdouts for the continued bouncy young styles, it's the swinger.

Whatever you call the new silhouette, it's wide-skirted. Some of Pauline Trigere's coats measured at least 5½ yards around the hem.

The tent coat swings from small shoulders or from under a high flat bosom. Many of the designers combine the tight, high-necked ruff shape at the top with a flaring hemline. Tent coats appeared in all the winter fabrics, in tweeds, plaids and stripes. They came in the bright new fall colors, too. Norman Norell featured a vivid pumpkin tent coat and skirt combined with a bright blue turtleneck blouse.

Bright colors are also favorites with Philip Tournaye, designer for Modella. Or else he likes his big coats in two colors, such as black with a camel yoke.

A turquoise seven-eighths-length tent coat was teamed by Adele Simpson with a black-and-white horizontally striped dress.

Geoffrey Benne introduced the flaring silhouette in his new pseudo-suits, designed to be worn in place of a dress. They look like a two-piece suit but aren't intended to be worn with a blouse.

The jacket, which he calls rickshaw, is in pyramid shape, narrow at the shoulders and flares wide and low over a slim skirt. One interesting pseudo-suit was in steel-grey flannel. He also likes such fabrics as tweeds, heavy silk crepe and silk satins for his new suit style.

The use of the tent silhouette in afternoon and evening fabrics is new but the silhouette itself appeared some 20 years ago. This was the loose-swinging coat.

There was an important difference, however. In 1947 Christian-Dior plunged the skirt down to mid-calf. So these tent coats really were tents. Today's version is short, as short as the dresses they cover. That's probably the reason for the half-humorous description of fall's big coat as the pup-tent.

The early tent silhouette was confined to coats. Now it includes dresses. It is a change from the slim sheath we've had for so many seasons. And it bypasses the waist.

Mollie Parnis likes the silhouette in a soft, fluid but full shape which swings wide at the hem. Donald Brooks calls his version the swing. "It begins at a deliberately flattened high bosom and then conceals its fullness within an enormously deep inverted fold at the front," he says. Wragge introduces a black yoke and black sleeves in a black-and-white tweed tent dress.

For evening the tent silhouette becomes spectacular. There was a big floral printed cre coat in blues and yellows by Tournaye for Modella. Oleg Cassini presented poison green silk with stained-glass circles.

Jersey, so adaptable to the soft, wrapped look so favored by designers, emerges as an important fabric for fall millinery. Jersey clothes and caps will be seen on smart heads everywhere this season.

The cap is a favorite young look, perched roughly above a coat and dress, preferably in matching fabrics. Another popular shape is inspired by the Green Beret and lends itself beautifully to soft felts that blend with Fall fabrics and hues.

Turbans that completely cover the hair reflect the trend to softness; these often match their more than one color. Close cousin to the turban is the scarf, fez, usually draped in self-fabric and providing a dramatic focal point for any ensemble.

And of all things, the perennial beanie is enjoying a revival in the shape of a little cap that sets smartly on the back of the head. It offers the perfect topping for the narrowed suits and dresses so popular for fall.

Still another classic, the roller, gets a new treatment this season... it's small, softer-looking and more in keeping with today's youth snap.

Other ways to recapture your chic when cold-ridden is to wear a light, perky perfume. Also dress-up your eyes with extra makeup to give them "sparkle" ad carry some of the never-parish tissues that come in bright patterns and colors.



THE FULL A-shaped dress in checks by Wragge, and the floor-length formal in pale yellow with a jeweled yoke, by Dominic, show the new tent silhouette for fall. The belted dress has a knitted collar. (CP Photo)

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Mollie Parnis created a paisley print velvet dome on chiffon to look like animated snakeskin. For ultra-elegance there was her dome formal gown of pale pink satin, the long sleeves and shoulders paved in jewels.

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## Newest millinery is close to head

The fashion picture for fall is a total one and the latest hats go a long way toward creating this new integrated outlook. In keeping with the emphasis on a total look, materials for fall millinery either blend with or match costumes and are shaped with an eye to new silhouettes. Shapes are small and close to

the head to complement such styles as the skimpy dress and the subtly flared coat. Jersey, so adaptable to the soft, wrapped look so favored by designers, emerges as an important fabric for fall millinery. Jersey clothes and caps will be seen on smart heads everywhere this season.

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## The 'ensemble' replaces classic single garment

There is lots of fashion news in Canadian coats, suits and ensembles for Fall and most of it has to do with fabrics. The ensemble look has taken over from the classic coat or suit that stands alone and it is created with matching, co-ordinating or contrasting fabric textures and colors.

Just about every important coat has a dress that goes under it. Suits have three, even four pieces and the pant suit has turned up in regular suit collections to add spice to the variety.

Double-faced fabrics and colors are contrasted to give the go-together look to coats, dresses and suits. Reversible coats often turn from check or plaid to plain and the dress underneath repeats the fabric detail.

Some of the smartest suits follow the dress-plus-jacket formula. Often they are in double-faced fabrics in two colors. The dress may appear to repeat the color scheme of the jacket until it is removed to reveal a bodice of a contrasting color.

Coat silhouettes this year are contradictory. Most follow the skinny line but the new tent coat is seen in every collection, small at the shoulders and a swinging wide at the hemline. The officers' greatcoat with epaulettes and brass buttons is reminiscent of the romantic fashion era of the Dr. Zhivago movie.

Plaids, checks, tweeds, diagonal twills and hard-surfaced wools like gabardines are favorite fabrics this year for coats and suits. In colors, the members of the plum family, burgundy, and grape hold down top position. Following close behind are navy, colors of the brown family from putty to cognac, and shades of apricot and tangerine.

Canadian manufacturers are giving pant suits a stronger push this year. Pants of every description from knickers to fluid-legged evening pyjamas and jumpsuits have swept the fashion capitals of the world, but Mrs. Average Canadian Consumer is lagging behind in her acceptance of the trend. Our manufacturers believe they will yet convert Mrs. A., judging from the number of pant suit styles in the Fall collections.

The pant suits are varied. Some pants are cut straight from the knee with the stovepipe look, others have legs slightly belled. Always the pants sit low on the hipline and are teamed with co-ordinate tops, most often in knits, and with matching jackets. Norfolk hunting jackets and military caps are all part of the pant suit trend.

THE BARED LOOK For the bared look, new strap arrangements on the season's newest bra fashions accommodate backless dresses, portrait, halter and plunging necklines.

## Unusual fabrics for bridal wear

The girl who plans to be married this fall will find that bridal styles are following the new "high fashion" look. Accent is on the use of new fabrics. Pace-setting bridal fabrics are described as woolly, nubby and tweedy. Some are Florentine velvet, corduroy, wool face, mohair, tapestry and even suede.

Tent coats are fresh fall trend. "Tenting today" is the theme song for fall, and new coats pitch their tents in the height of fashion.

True tent shape, narrowed at the top and spreading toward the hem, adapts well to full length coats in windowpane and tattersall checks, frothy tweeds, smooth zibelines, crisp gabardines. Of course, "full length" is somewhat abbreviated for fall, as coats, too, raise their hemlines.

Other coats are dubbed "pup tents" for their swirly shapes and their still-shorter lengths—three-quarter or, more often, seven-eighths.

For slimmer coats, a bit of added fullness frequently suggests the tent-trend in fall fashion. While the tent is the newest coat shape, there are fashion-approved silhouettes of every description from cigarette-slim to graceful wrap styles. Panels, front or back, give many coats a fresh look and provide an air of motion without bulky width.

Closings chance the face of fashion. For instance, there's the fancier's look for coats that begin by buttoning wide, with the buttons then narrowing to a closer formation.

Both double and single-breasted styles appear, usually with a high-rise feeling.

Side buttoning refreshes still other coats. Sometimes, the side closings are bordered in full—just one of many ways a fall fashion, transforms "fur trimmed" into a totally new idea.

In general, fall's approach to fur for coat adornment is lavish. The demure little collar of mink or opossum or other favored fur gives way to the "high rise" ruff of fur—the better to flatter a lady's face.

Coats are not only collared with fur—they're cuffed with fur, bordered with fur, lined with fur for luxurious looks as well as warmth.

The army and the navy contribute style inspiration for many lively coats.

## Those lovely, lively wools

Step lively... keep up with those brightly colored shear wools that find their way into fall's favorite silhouettes.

The tent—plum-wool spashed with golden orange flowers. The sheltered shift... hooded zip-front skinny dress in paisley border print wool.

Both dresses are wonderfully versatile, go from desk to date with great aplomb.

COLOR APPEAL Birthstone rings, besides their timeless and traditional appeal, hold an important place in the fashion picture because they add a dash of color.

ventions in bridal gowns, the traditional styles lead as the most romantic choice of the young bride. However, tradition combines well with news in fall's wedding gowns.

The predominant new style features, so fashion reports say, "a controlled front with a skimmer back." The youthful, high-arched bodice has the look of

fashion, while the looser, more flowing back gives a graceful appearance to the over-all silhouette and allows more ease in walking, too.

A great demand has been noted for coats to be worn with bridal gowns over a simple sheath dress, long or short. When the coat is removed, the bride has a fashionable dress suitable for after-the-wedding occasions.

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