

Design Detail Lecture Notes

Resources: Fashion! By Mary Wolfe

Dress Styles:

Dresses have the main item of female apparel in the Western Hemisphere for centuries. Dresses were called a robe or a gown.

The three classic dress styles are:

- a. Sheath: a close-fitting dress that is shaped by darts
- b. Shift: a loose fitting dress
- c. Princess: a close-fitting, flared dress that is shaped by seams

Neckline Styles:

A neckline refers to the area around the neck and shoulders. Before the 20th century, garments from the same period all had similar necklines. Today fashion features many different types of necklines in a season.

Classic neckline styles:

- a. Jewel: round neckline that makes a good background for jewelry and necklaces.
- b. Crew: is a high, round neckline finished with a knit band.
- c. Cowl: Usually part of shirt or dress that is cut on the bias to make the neckline drape better. Cowl means softly draped. Originally it was a hooded garment worn by monks.
- d. Bateau: French word for boat.
- e. Sweetheart: is moderately low and heart-shaped in the front
- f. Halter: consists of a sleeveless front held in place at the neckline with a drawstring or band. The shoulders and back are bare.

Collar Styles:

A collar is a separate piece of fabric that is attached to the neckline of a garment. It can be small or large, stand-up or fold-over, soft or stiff. Most collars are permanently attached.

Classic Collar styles:

- a. Shirt collar
- b. Button down collar
- c. Convertible collar
- d. Notched collar
- e. Shawl collar

Sleeve Styles:

Primitive clothing had sleeves that were cut with the garment in one piece. In the Middle Ages, the set-in-sleeve became popular. Today we wear many different types of sleeves.

- a. Set in sleeve: is joined to the garment by an armhole seam that circles the arm near the shoulder.
- b. Raglan sleeve: has a front and back diagonal seam that extends from the neckline to the armhole.
- c. Kimono sleeve: is cut in one piece with the front and the back of the garment.

Shirt Styles:

The term shirt is usually used to describe a piece of clothing that is more tailored than a blouse.

Skirt Styles:

Today a skirt is described as a separate piece of clothing that can be worn with any style of top. However, from medieval times until the 18th century, dresses were usually made with separate skirts and bodices. In the 1870's, women began to wear tailored suits with separate skirts and jackets.

Skirts can be straight, flared or full. Darts, gathers, pleats, or seams shape them.

- a. Dirndl
- b. Gored
- c. Wrap

Pants:

In ancient times, Persian and Anglo-Saxon men wore pants. However, the pant was not used until the late 1800's. At that time, it meant outer garments worn by men and boys. Today both men and women wear pants.

Pant styles vary in width as well as length.

- a. Flared (bellbottoms)
- b. Straight
- c. Tapered
- d. Bermuda
- e. Culottes
- f. Leggings

Jacket and Coat Styles:

The word coat comes from the English word cloak, which was a large piece of fabric. It was wrapped around the body over outer clothing to keep the wearer warm.

The term jacket comes from the French word jaquette, which means little coat. Today jacket usually means an outer layer of clothing that is hip-length or slightly longer or shorter. A jacket can be worn as an outer layer or under a coat.

Jackets and coats can be single breasted or double breasted.

Classic jacket styles:

- a. Blazer: solid-colored jacket that can be single or double breasted.
- b. Cardigan: a collarless jacket or sweater that buttons down the front.