

Pathfinder

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The Formal Manner

The coming of 1948 suggests parties for New Year's Eve as well as the winter ahead. Parties suggest evening dresses. Evening dresses suggest the new look. And the new look has a split personality.

The fashionable gown will be one of two extremes—pencil slim or big-skirted like a puff ball. Whatever its cut, its color may be anything from soft dove grey to something called satan red. Fabrics are rich and lustrous, particularly the untarnishable metallic materials. Newest is aluminum, colored gold or silver and woven into lamé or onto rayon or even wool in gleaming designs.

82-Foot Skirt. For teen-agers or those in their early twenties, the full-blown ballerina or long velvet skirt is teamed with a metallic Gibson-girl waist or a little off-shoulder peasant blouse. A



Lane Bryant

ELEGANCE. *In rustling black taffeta*

The Formal Manner

(continued)

more sophisticated formal has a great drift of purple satin skirt with slim, high belt caught to a pale orchid satin waist embroidered in purple sequins. One of the most extreme full skirts, by French designer Christian Dior, measures 25 meters (27 $\frac{1}{3}$ yards) around the hemline.

The slim silhouette is simple but not severe: a long brown and gold lamé dress with hip drape on one side and softly swathed bodice, topped by a fold of the material and held up by narrow straps; a sculptured Grecian gown of green chiffon featuring full, loose skirt panels and halter neckline; a black lace gown backgrounding a bunch of pink roses caught on one hip and rambling downward.

Designers, obviously, have decreed that this shall be a season of elegance to match the good times of the New Year.



Mildred O'Quinn

... *portrait blue satin.*