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Trends

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TRENDS

by Jean Wilkerson

Applied Art Junior

AFRICAN and Eastern art has inspired the textile designers to bring novel and colorful cotton prints to the fashion front this year. Dainty pastel prints have given way to geometric designs and dramatic color.

In the volcanic Canary Islands, the rhythms of Africa and the colors of Spain meet and blend into patterns of carved doorways, tiles, and costumes which vary from one Canary Island to another. From these doorways, tiles and costumes come the cottons of today.

One print features striped and curlicued embroidery that makes patterns of pink and green bananas on a solid colored background. Another, consisting of seafoam in tones of ocean blue and sunset orange, makes a striking fabric for a summer dress or skirt. More bright colors are found in the lava gold plaids intermingled with red and green. When designers made dresses and shorts of this plaid, they found inspiration in the Canary Islands and are now bringing this island influence to our streets and beaches.

Geometric designs of white embroidery are shown on black cotton in a striking, straight hanging shirt with flipped-back cuffs. For the material of the shirt, artists copied wheels and circles of black and white from the Canary Island tiles. The shirt goes well with a full skirt for spring class wear or may be worn over shorts of white cotton with crinkled surfaces to give a "stucco-in-the-sun" effect.

An idea derived from the Afro-Hispanic countries is that of syncopated stripes. These are used in high, unbelted denim pants with the close lineal fit of levis. The thin stripes filled with embroidered geometrics are a motif native to Tenerife, the largest Canary Island. A black raglan-sleeved shirt of broadcloth complements the pants. Top denim pants and shirt with a new straw sombrero copied from the Canary Islanders.

Ottoman influence is found printed, embroidered and jeweled on cotton. The Turkish carpet print in black and white, which is the smart color combination for summer, makes a good partner for a golden tan. Also showing the Turkish influence are jeweled shirts in white knitted cotton, scroll-glittered with many colored stones and loosely fitted to pull down easily over narrow pants, shorts or bathing suits.

Printed cotton and tooled leather display Far Eastern motifs. The Sari print makes a tempting deeply-pleated skirt with a repetition of design, perhaps navy blue on a lighter blue, and a concentrated pattern at the borders. The same intricate designs may be tooled on pumps in black and white and give an outstanding accent to the costume.

New and colorful geometric designs inspired by Africa and the Far East are adding drama and interest to spring and summer fashions.