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Do You Have a Tea Room Complex?

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Do You Have a Tea Room Complex?
By GLADYS BRANSON

One wonders who it is that decides the type of clothes that we wear each season. It is the designer.

As we know, Paris has been accepted as the fashion center of the world in the past. But Fifth Avenue in New York is becoming more popular than previously for American styles.

In some design shops, the owner designs the models. Very seldom do designers do their own sketching. Artists are employed to sketch the models which the designer has created by draping materials on a manikin. Department stores and exclusive shops have designers do all their planning of costumes.

Some designers specialize in certain kinds, such as suits, dresses, shoes, coats, hats and underwear. It seems that the best designers plan a complete costume consisting of coat, dress, shoes, hat, bag, underwear and other accessories. With this method, there is more apt to be uniformity in a costume. Recent Parisian designers declare that even the underwear must have certain lines, materials and shades to be in good taste and in keeping with the fashions. Well chosen and designed underwear gives a better fit to the dress itself.

A designer takes many things into consideration when designing clothes. Color is a large item. After it is the color scheme which actually "makes" the dress, on the other hand, the lines of the costume may be the most important detail.

Often, when we see dresses designed and pictured, we will say, "Just imagine that on me. I am too short to wear that kind of a dress." Or, one may think she is too tall and slender to wear the very simple lines that are so much in vogue at present. This may be true. The designer pictures her models on ideal figures, leaving it to the individual to be able to select the type that suits her figure best.

No two people have figures and features exactly the same. In fact, there are thousands of women who are wearing the same styles, yet have entirely different figures. We wonder how it can be done.

The designer must have an active imagination. She must be able to visualize her ideas in reality. Then, too, she must always have new ideas, new ways of arranging and combining colors, lines and materials.

When thinking of perfect proportion in dress, we ask ourselves, "What is an ideal figure?" It is not measured in inches nor in feet, but is measured in heads. This sounds queer, but after studying the following table one will understand how such a statement can be made.

Measurements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurements</th>
<th>Heads</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top of head to floor</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of head to chin</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of neck</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of head to shoulders</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Underarm to waistline: 1 head
Top of head to bust line: 3 1/2 heads
Top of head to waistline: 2 heads
Top of head to hips: 4 heads
Top of head to knees: 6 heads
Bottom of knees to floor: 3 heads
Bust measurement: 1 1/2 heads
Width of hips: 1 1/2 heads
Waist to floor: 5 1/2 heads
Wrist: 1 1/2 head below hip.

According to this outline of measurements of the ideal figure, a tall person should not be too slender and a short person should not be too stout. This emphasizes both extremes.

The designer must have an active imagination. She must be able to visualize her ideas in reality. Then, too, she must always have new ideas, new ways of arranging and combining colors, lines and materials.

As a vocation for girls designing offers many possibilities. The path is long before a place is assured in the world of costume design. There is work in art, in designing and practical experience before a girl has sufficient background to start designing.

A successful designer has untold fame and wealth ahead of her. Designers' names stand forth among the foremost.