PAGE 1

Part of the fashion idiom, “easy dressing”—meaning dressing that’s unstudied, uncomplicated, easy to wear… all in an attractive, polished, real-life way. The concept’s American. We started it. We do it best. And we keep doing it better. This season, “easy” goes to a whole new level—racier, sharper, more sophisticated. What does it: fabric with more character, patterns with more strength, more precision… color!

There’s a new character to Ralph Lauren’s sportive American classics, like his traditional trousers, this page, are in a bold floral print of silk, and his shawl-collared “robe” is vivid purple in soft, languorous silk charmeuse. Another plus: these looks needn’t wait for warm weather, a resort—this is terrific at-home dressing any time. Trousers, about $358. Robe-jacket, about $658. Late Dec. at Saks Fifth Avenue, NYC; Hudson-Belk’s, Raleigh NC; Polo/Ralph Lauren, San Antonio. Ring and bracelet, Paloma Picasso for Tiffany & Co. Donald Judd chair, courtesy Max Protetch Gallery, NYC.

*Image: full-page color spread of Ralph Lauren trousers and robe.*

Everybody loved the look, the Fred Astaire nonchalance of Ralph Lauren’s impeccable, classic trousers, in brilliant chrome silk charmeuse, opposite. Here, played against a navy double-breasted wool gabardine jacket and white tank. Trousers, about $358. Jacket, about $396. Late December at Barneys New York; Polo/Ralph Lauren, Costa Mesa CA; Polo/Ralph Lauren, Denver, Polo/Ralph Lauren, San Francisco. Rings and bracelets, Bulgari at the Pierre Hotel, NYC. Elizabeth Jackson chair for Arc International, Inc., NYC. These, next two pages: hair, Madeleine Cofano for Bruno Dessange; makeup, Laura Mercier. Details, more stores, last pages.

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PAGE 2

**A Strong Sense of Ease**

Typical of this “laid back” American approach: very polished sweater-and-skirt dressing for low-key evenings. And what a sweater-and-skirt this is! By Ralph Lauren, this page, a long, soft-moving, bias-cut skirt of flag-red silk crepe de Chine with a generously sized navy cotton turtleneck sweater. The turtleneck—so important this winter—keeps evolving for warm weather, with long sleeves, short sleeves, even on halters. Skirt, about $258. Sweater, about $198. Turnout late December at Alcott & Andrews, NYC; Short Hills NJ; Hartford CT; Washington DC; Polo/Ralph Lauren, Atlanta. Skirt, Polo/Ralph Lauren, Ft. Lauderdale. Elizabeth Jackson chair for Arc International, Inc., NYC.

*Image: model seated in red silk skirt and navy sweater.*

Pure pow! The dress everybody applauded, wanted!—Donna Karan’s—opposite. In double-faced, full-bodied bright red silk—strong shouldered, tightly cinched at the waist, with a graceful, ankle-length skirt—it sets up a whole new definition of shape and a new kind of dressing for easy evenings. Donna Karan New York. About $890. Late January. At Bloomingdale’s; L.H. Rogers, Salem MA; Alexander’s Edge, Virginia Beach; Hudson’s, Hattie, Palm Beach FL and Scottsdale AZ; Eleanor Keehan, Los Angeles. Chair, Lawrence Originals, c. 1960, courtesy Fifty-50, NYC. Details, more stores, see next to last pages.

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**Image Only Spread:** full-page visual continuation of “A Strong Sense of Ease” — two models in monochrome knits and silk, photographed mid-motion against a neutral backdrop.

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PAGE 4

**A Strong Sense of Ease… Patterns are Precise, Sharp—Unsentimental**

The best of these patterns, when they aren’t in strong color, are in strong black or navy with white, like this very attractive city dressing for working women—easy to wear, but polished, meant to be taken seriously. David Hayes’s black-and-white suit, left: a body-close, pointed-edge jacket and short, narrow skirt, both in strongly textured silk cloque… a look that moves from day into evening. About $460.

*Image: two standing models, one in a black-and-white Hayes suit, another in navy stripes.*

Regimental precision—the navy-and-white stripes, right, of Gloria Sachs’s silk button-back blouse and classic trouser: all the raciness of a jumpsuit. Top, about $220. Trousers, about $290. And then there are patterns so precise, they give you a feeling of texture. Anne Klein’s starring jacket, left—long, clean, collarless—continues in black-and-white, perfect proportion with this short, slim linen/satin skirt; with trousers. Louis Dell’Olio for Anne Klein & Co. Jacket, about $380; skirt, about $160. Jewelry, Paloma Picasso for Tiffany & Co.

Another attractive jacket, right, by Mondi, in navy gabardine, slightly more classic but not blazer-y—it’s longer, more relaxed, it moves. Here, over matching trousers, a white shirt. Jacket, about $209. Trousers, about $160. Shirt, about $120. Hair, Edward Tricomi for Pipino-Buccheri, NYC; makeup, Laura Mercier. Details, more stores, see last pages.

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**Image Only Spread:** editorial photo featuring models seated in tailored jackets and striped blouses, architectural background.

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PAGE 6

**A Strong Sense of Ease… The Singular Charm of a Soft Suit in a Strong Mix of Patterns**

Usually hard to find: suit dressing that strikes the right balance between crispness and ease. You find it, opposite, in Oscar de la Renta’s striking plaid/check suit of navy-and-white wool—the jacket lightly shaped and rounder, the skirt short, narrow, slit; the look sharpened by the jolt of a red-and-white striped silk blouse. About $1190. Late January at Saks Fifth Avenue; Sara Fredericks, Boston & Palm Beach; Montaldo’s; Higbee’s; Balle’s. Jean Prouvé chair, Global Furniture, NYC.

*Image: model in de la Renta check suit and red striped blouse.*

In a more dressed mood, this page, Bill Blass’s soft-falling 7/8 coat and slim, softly shaped, knee-length straight skirt, in a controlled, allover “palmette” print (fabric, Abraham) with stripes: a striped silk halter that wraps at the throat (Delbos, Teseo), glory at night, a pulled-together, altogether charming way to look. About $2570. Late January at Saks Fifth Avenue, NYC; Sara Fredericks, Boston; Martha, Palm Beach & Bal Harbour; John Baldwin, St. Petersburg FL; Frost Bros., San Antonio and Ohio; Frost Bros. Hair, Ray Allington for Vidal Sassoon; makeup, Margaret Avery. Details, more stores, last pages.

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**Image Only Spread:** full-page color photograph closing the series — model in plaid Oscar de la Renta suit, seated beside red-striped fabric backdrop.

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