

Remember when? Five decades of fashion

“The essence of fashion is its changeability.”

– Karl Lagerfeld
Fashion designer

As we reflect on the last five decades, it is easy to see that styles have changed in so many ways. Some of the fashion trends were short lived, while others have resurfaced many times over the past years. The question is “What did we wear then that will look stylish now in 2012?”



Jacquie Bennett

The '60s started with a formal trend. There was no “casual dress-down Fridays.” Women had closets full of suits and dresses. The sheath dress was very popular and suits had straight knee length skirts with short boxy jackets. Pastel colors and over-sized buttons were the norm. Recall the image of Jackie Kennedy in her pink suit and famous pill-box hat. A style was born. America has always looked to its First Ladies for the latest trends.

Mary Quant introduced the mini skirt – woman and girls alike welcomed the opportunity to finally show off their legs. The look was often completed with knee high white “go-go” boots. This was the only boot acceptable to be worn for the sake of fashion. All other boots were strictly designed for wear in the snow.

As skirts went shorter, coats reached new, longer lengths. The maxi was born. Trench coats were

worn not only as protection from the weather, but also to make a fashion statement.

Preppies in the '60s traded in their saddle shoes for Bass Weejuns. The cordovan colored penny loafer was a favorite among males and females. The standard dress included Gant shirts and Vil-

lager round collared blouses. Any fashionista knew to accessorize with a circle pin.

The working man dressed in a suit and tie. The shirt had to be white, beige or tan and the tie was a thin width. Many companies mandated a white shirt and a full suit – no sport coats.

By the time the late '60s rolled around, tie dye had entered the fashion world. Teenagers bought plain white men's T-shirts to transform them into works of multi-colored art. Color was evident everywhere in bright neons and color blocked designs.

The '70s gave women the freedom to wear pants to functions other than casual events. Slowly pantsuits became acceptable in the workplace and for more formal occasions. The jumpsuit also became an alternative for “dressing up.” Styled from flowy fabric with wide legs, it gave the illusion of long dress.

Every decade had a

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1960s Colorblocking

Photos submitted by
JACQUIE BENNETT

1970s Pantsuits



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