'Easy Look' Featured as N.Y. Fashion Week Oper



High collar . . .

peekaboo detail . . .

bateau neckline . . .

ornamental neckline

Designers Emphasize 3 Freedoms: From Fuss, Restraint, Alterations

By OLIVE DICKASON Women's Editor

New York, July 11-The demure prettiness of the Empire and princess lines has given way to the "easy look" of casually bloused tops over slim skirts in the salons of New York's top designers. The Empire and princess silhouettes, with their skintight midriffs, are still present, but they are being promoted mostly by the volume houses.

The twenty-third national press week of the Couture Group of the New York Dress Institute opened its fall and winter previews with an emphasis

on relaxation. In the world of fashion, this means fewer waist cinchers and long-boned bras as designers base their creations on three freedoms: freedom from restraint, freedom from bussi-ness and freedom from altera-

tions. These These freedoms, however have their limitations . . . for instance, while designers are using more fabric than they did in the Empire line, it is often of a more clinging type, reveal-ing, if possible, more figure than ever.

Fewer Petticoats The soft shirtwaist top takes first place in every collection.

in coats and suits as well as dresses. Even evening clothes are shirt-waisty. Skirt lengths remain about the same, oc-casionally going a little shorter in fuller styles. There are defi-nitely fewer petiticoats. Collars have become quite in-teresting . . . big collars spread flat like a middy, drape shawl-wise, loop or tie ascots, or swirl

wise, loop or tie ascots. or swirl around the ears in exaggerated petal shapes, points or turtle necks. There are also double collars of two fabrics or two colors.

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with envy. There is a silken shimmer over everything, from silk-and-worsted dress fabrics and satin-back suitings to shining, thistle-down coatings. Tweed and silk satin often ap-

Tweed and silk satin often ap-pear together in a single cos-tume. Or else a casual style will be done in a formal fabric, Chiffon-weight fabrics are highly important, and they in-clude tweed, wool jersey, broad-cloth and mat jersey. Evening silks are often so magnificent in quality and color that they are quality and color that they are used without decoration.

The pageantry of color is so vivid that most women will be beguiled away from black and neutrals. Black is often not quite black (then it is called caviar), or else it is used with bright trimming or lining. Tinted whites from ivory to an almostgreen hue light up evening fash-ions, while clear blues, pinks and gem colorings in satin make a radiant contrast. Strange new combinations with an oriental or modernistic flavor add an intriguing note. Brown is a basic color.

