

## FASHION SHOW



**F**ashion designers have been showing their latest spring and summer designs in Rome this week. Anna Chisnall has been looking at the designs and the trends.

One thing is clear for the coming season, the big hat is in. According to designer Pino Lagetti, his collection showed navy is still a classic, skirts can still be short, but the simple sheath dress can be teased and glamorised with a touch of chiffon.

Chiffon was also a theme for Amato Valastra with huge floral print flowing summer dresses for glamorous occasions, long long hemlines and bare midribs.

Gian Lucca Borgonovi's designs suggest black is still the all-essential little number for evening wear and you can choose what shape it comes in. And this season he's given a new look to the tulip skirt.

Several designers have modernised the seventies' bell-bottomed trousers : some give it a slimmer look, but younger designers have given it an even wider dimension.

Little time was given to the look for men, except to say that they can now show their midribs too.

Much talk has been given this week to whether or not the days of haute-couture in the Italian capital are over, with well-tailored off-the-peg fashions readily acceptable. But young designers this week hailed a new era in Rome fashion with designs like these : this strapless dress, with a mind of its own, the big cover-up with oh-so-short shorts underneath all in gold, and with much imagination, the trellis dress, and the one that appears to be made of cards.

You can take your pick !