

Harvard Square Gives Way to Pretty Finnish Furnishings, Styles

New York Times (1857-Current file); Jul 1, 1959;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2006)

pg. 35

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New England, a Hub of Traditional, Has Gone for Modern

BOSTON-BOUND vacationers will find more to look at this summer than Old North Church and Faneuil Hall. Right across the Charles River from these hallowed edifices is equally hallowed Harvard Square, which is now playing host to a show of avant-garde Finnish designs.

"A cross-section of the Finnish home," as Mrs. Armi Ratia, a Finnish fashion expert associated with the show, explained, it encompasses a large selection of furnishings and a tidy group of fashions. It is installed in a converted frame dwelling at 63 Brattle Street, and is open daily. There is no admission charge. All items in the display are for sale; many of them were on view at the Brussels World's Fair last year.

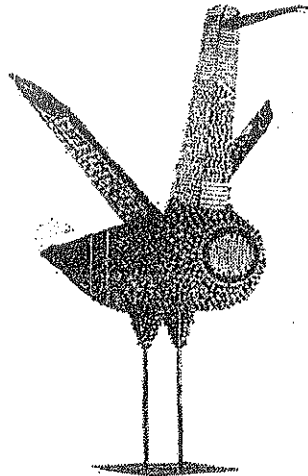
To Harvard and Radcliffe graduates returning to the Square, the building housing the show and the cluster of architects' offices at the foot of Brattle Street will come as a shock. Once a sleepy thoroughfare disturbed only by the traffic of laggard scholars, it now bustles with shoppers for modern pieces, as well as architects, designers and their clients.

The objects in the Finnish show and those in the numerous shops that have suddenly popped up in Boston and Cambridge clearly demonstrate why this area, the hub of all that is traditional, has fallen for modern. In a New Englander's estimation, a furnishing is beautiful only if it is first useful. And the Finnish pieces are just that.

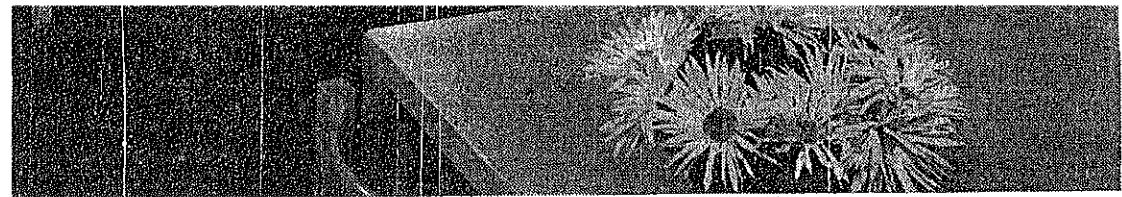
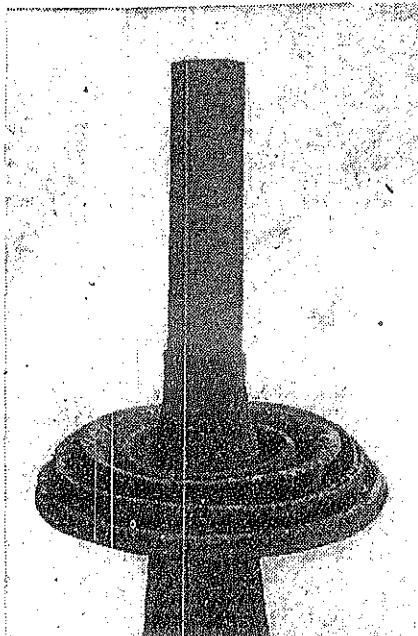
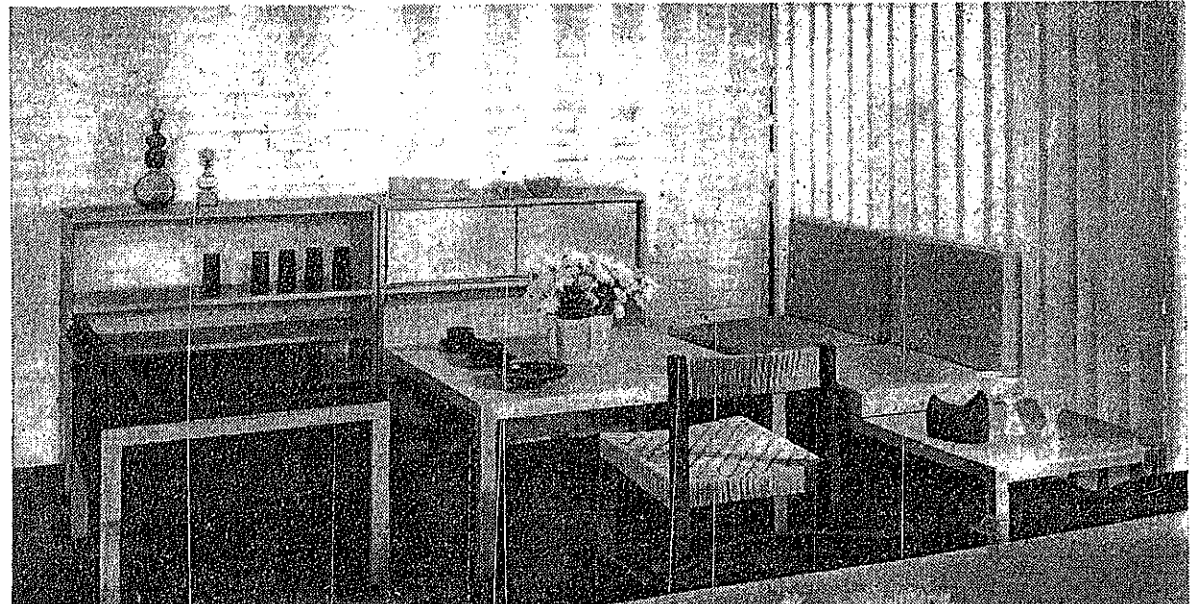
Compared with other furnishings in the show, the number of furniture pieces is limited. But, as a spokesman for the exhibit explained, the Finns build as much furniture as they can into the walls, restricting their use of free-standing pieces.

One handsome example of the transfer of the built-in look to free-standing design is a bench-shaped bed. Special low chests were made to fit under the bench, one way of freeing the center of today's small rooms of too many furniture pieces.

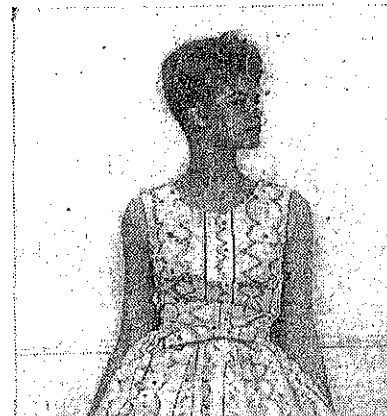
To polish off this portrait of Finland at home, there is a selection of fashions in bright, 1958 prints that mix colors in



Bead bird, 2½ ft. \$1,088

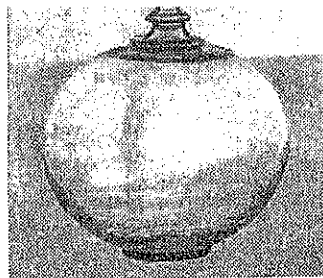
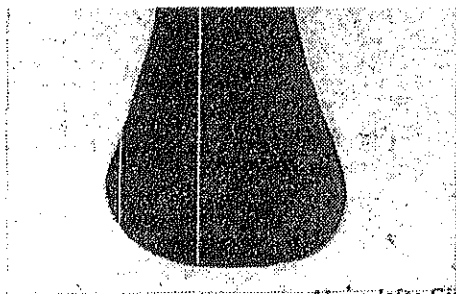


Finnish room has practical furnishings. Chair, at left, has upholstered board for back rest. Karina Borg, \$175. Storage units stack along wall. Birch, \$16.30 to \$43 a unit. Miss Borg. Side chair, mahogany and rattan, \$35. Birch coffee table, \$159. Sofa-bench, \$195 with cushions. By Reino Ruokolainen.

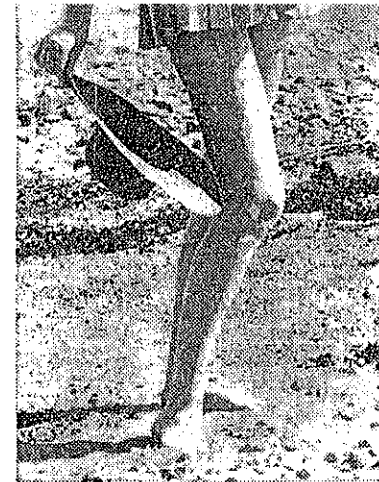
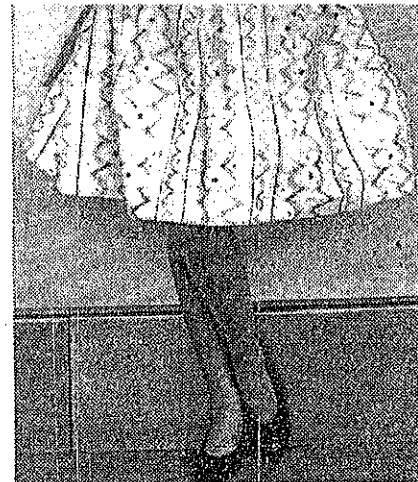


blinding combinations.

These fashions should appeal to a New Englander's sense of the practical, for, although pretty enough to wear downtown, all are meant to be used as housedresses, smocks or other cover-ups for doing work in the house or garden. They follow the chemise and Empire line of last summer's fashions, and most customers call for belts to cinch them. But, belted or not, many women will find the cool, comfortable cut of these styles irresistible.



Above left: Giant candlestick is 1½ feet high. Made of roughly textured ceramic. \$95. Mrs. Oifa Toikka.
Above: Bird on a bottle is a glass decanter topped with a whimsical stopper. \$52.50. By Kaj Franck.
Right: Frock for casual living is in black and red on white. \$34. Printex cotton, a Marimekko style.
Far right: Sunsuit in an abbreviated version of the chemise silhouette. \$22.50 in hot colors. Marimekko.
Fashions, furnishings and room are shown in Finnish exhibition to be held this summer in Cambridge, Mass.



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