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About people

Swimsuits, high and dry

—by Lois Taylor—

"It is not the size of the weapon but the fury of the attack." And that, says Oleg Cassini, is the theory of swimsuit design.

He said a great deal more during the hour-long showing of his original collection of swimsuits and cover-ups at the Henry E. Damon estate Monday night.

Some of it could have been eliminated, particularly the slurring remarks about the

models he kept offering to sell, not the suits but the girls.

The fashion show, which was by and large a skin show, was well received by the men in the audience, although one pointed out that you can sit on the terrace of the Outrigger Canoe Club any afternoon and see the same thing.

After about the 30th bathing suit had sashayed by,

Charles. C. Spalding said, "Cassini must think we do an awful lot of swimming out here."

Mr. Cassini mingled with the audience during the cocktail hour which preceded the buffet supper and the showing of the swimsuits.

He made a date for golf with Howard Lang, whom he knew in New York, and a tennis date with Tom Mauch. Mr. Cassini told the Puna-

hou tennis pro that he had played for the Davis Cup team in Italy.

Tables were arranged on the terrace of the Damon home, and the fashion runway was set in the center.

Gardenia blossoms bordered the runway, and strings of tiny reflectors and small mirrored balls hung from the monkeypod trees to glisten in the moonlight.

Robert B. Whitebrook admired the business acumen of the designer who said in an interview Saturday, "The elegant look is no more."

Mr. Whitebrook said, "Cassini has a good business mind. With the sunglasses, bras, girdles, swimsuits and high fashion that he designs, if one cools off, then he still has all the rest. That's been the problem with the big designers who are interested only in the haute couture."

The Cassini collection, which was presented again yesterday at a luncheon at the Ilikai Hotel, was shown at both events as a benefit for Children's Hospital.

The suits were brief and sleek and don't belong on anybody over a size 10. Some were topped with matching cover-ups, which Oleg Cassini insisted the girls remove on the ramp.

"I told a girl in a Jacksonville show to take off her shirt and she didn't have anything on underneath," he reported. Nothing like that happened in Honolulu.

He mentioned when a one-shouldered sleek and shiny black suit was modeled, "I designed that one for Jackie Kennedy."

As the show progressed and yet another almost bare young lady trotted down the ramp, Robert R. Midkiff said, "No wonder the committee picked a show like this. This is how they get all the customers for Children's Hospital."

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ENCOUNTER — Oleg Cassini talks on a back staircase of the Henry E. Damon home with models wearing three of his new designs. The girls, from left, are Lee Woolaway, Frankie Macaulay and Diana Snyder.



JUST US GIRLS—Kathy Davis, at right, fashion director for the Liberty House, wears a black corduroy pantsuit to lecture to the corps of

models before the swimsuit fashion show. Diana Snyder, left foreground, wears a red, white and blue "Apres Sée" suit.