

DONNA KARAN
NEW YORK

FALL-WINTER 94 HOLIDAY 95

Donna Karan saw that the many men in her life, starting with her husband, also needed a sophisticated system of dressing. Considering Karan's father was a custom tailor, a menswear collection was inevitable, and it was founded in 1992.

The inspiration for Donna Karan Signature Gold Label comes from the height of mens elegance from the 30's thru early 60's of Hollywood and New York. Taking critical cues from such famous actors as Cary Grant, Clark Gable, Fred Astaire, Humphrey Bogart, Frank Sinatra, Paul Newman, Steve McQueen, and Sean Connery.

The Signature collection started as a clean slate from what was the current climate of menswear at the time. Suit jackets were designed with flattering shoulders, form-fitting waist and a pronounced front drop. Lapels were generous and evocative of an era that harkened tailored elegance over the power suit of the 80's. Trousers were generous and flattering for men of all ages. Shirts were constructed as if hand-tailored with barrel cuffs and french cuffs in luxurious cottons and silks.

Many doubted Donna Karan would be able to succeed in menswear as she was primarily known as a womenswear designer. Many speculated that men would show resistance to wearing suits that featured a woman's name on the label, but she proved all naysayers wrong to accolades and a successful division of the Donna Karan empire.

Since men cannot live by double face cashmere suits alone, DKNY Men emerged a year later in answer to his casual, sport side, which then beget its own dress shirt and tailored clothing collections.

On the following pages witness for yourself the beginnings of Donna Karan menswear.

