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THEN
2001

NOW
2005

Fellow Texan Michael Faircloth designed the red gown Laura wore to the 2001 inaugural ball.

THE EXPERTS SPEAK:

● **Simon Doonan, creative director, Barneys New York:**

"In 2001, her evening wear looked like she borrowed it from Harvey Fierstein. The new Laura [in Oscar de la Renta] looks like she's been visited by the ghost of Coco Chanel — très chic and très French!"

● **Montgomery Frazier, NYC image consultant:** "Of course she looks better this time around! She had the help and support of Oscar de la Renta! How could she go wrong?"

● **Kelli Delaney, creative director, Star:** "I think Laura is a winner in Oscar de la Renta. I love the way she embraces her curves and is completely confident in what she wears. Losing weight [a reported 20 pounds, working out with weights with a trainer two to three times a week] has made her figure sleeker. And her hair is less librarian too!"

● **Phillip Bloch, celebrity stylist:** "I wouldn't be surprised if her girls exerted some influence on their mother's choices [this year]."

**20 lbs.
lighter
& tons
more
glam!**

Laura won raves for this dazzling Oscar de la Renta inaugural gown and elegant Fred Leighton jewels. "As long as you keep it very simple, she always looks right," says de la Renta.