



INDULGE

THE SHOEMAKER'S TALE

MEET THE ARTIOLIS, THREE
GENERATIONS OF SHOE DESIGNERS
WITH CLIENTS LIKE NICOLAS
SARKOZY, ROBERT DE NIRO, GEORGE
CLOONEY AND DONALD TRUMP

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From the fashion capital

FOOTWEAR TRENDS FOR FALL-WINTER

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+ EXCLUSIVE

**Shop.Eat.Party.
Chill @ Singapore Contest**

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the
it list



Minus the frills

Echoing a common trend at the shoe fair, Fratelli Rossetti presents a subdued look without many embellishments. In trademark feminine-masculine style, the designs feature square and oval toes with simple cuts. Leather soles are covered with a rubber lamina and glossy patent meets suede. Boots go back to the '70s with tubular leg and high heels. A Rossetti costs between 100-500 Euros.

Hot skin

Style czars will love the rich leather that is a must with Pakerson shoes, be it eel or white kangaroo. All the shoes for men are hand-crafted and known for their lightness and flexibility. Prices start at 300 Euros.



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Shape changer

Baldinini's fall-winter collection is all about stronger foot-beds with multi-form materials on the heel. Designs include knee and ankle boots with cuff, and floppy boots with round, short, triangular and tapered toes. Polarised tints alternating with dark colours like jade, ruby, eggplant and cobalt grab instant attention. With hidden stratified platforms, dizzying heights are more than possible. At 300 Euros upwards.



Sole advantage

Text: Mamta Todi

Last month, over 1,500 odd exhibitors assembled at the Milan Rho exhibition centre for MICAM, one of the most popular shoe fairs in the world. Organised by ANCI — the National Association of Italian Footwear Manufacturers — it showcased the collections for all seasons of 2009. And while most of the crowd was there on business, I was glad to note that style and originality were given due respect.

Introducing striking designs from the biggest brands, for women, men, even little *bambinos*. With some of the brands planning to come to India soon, I'd suggest you take note.



Peep-toe effect

Salvatore Ferragamo's Spring Summer line features leather and patent designs with about three inches on the heel. Available in black and white, apart from aubergine and beige colour palettes. At www.salvatoreferragamo.it for about \$690.

Starting young

Luxe Italian shoes for children are usually made in very soft leather — never plastic or rubber. Naturino Falci presents designs with no stiffeners at the toe and a sole made of the same leather as the upper. Their Falcotto line for "crawlers" has a flexible bottom. And the unique Sand Effect concept implies a "walking on sea sand" philosophy for greater comfort. Available for all age groups of children, in the price range of 50-150 Euros.



Get rich

Artioli's spring summer line combines soft calf and kangaroo leathers with exotic skins. Original models of elastic lacing Oxford and slip-ons, tubular moccasins and sandals feature prominently. This brand is known for its innovative shapes and colours inspired by the Impressionist paintings of Monet, Renoir and Matisse. At 300 Euros upwards.

New spirit

New materials go to make handcrafted pieces that are unforgettable. This multi-coloured closed-toe shoe in textured print boasts of a five-inch heel and reflects the true Italian fashion spirit. Marino Fabiani shoes cost anywhere between \$300 and \$500.



The MICAM report: A round-up of what leading Italian brands will be showcasing this year forecasting





The male advantage

While the fall-winter line does not boast of any sensational out-of-the-box developments for men, elegance reigns. The new looks — Electro pop, Café chantant and Rockoco — are rich and decorated.

Electropop

A re-invention of pop through technological innovation, there is a direct reference to the oversized shapes of the 1980s. Materials alternate between natural leathers and high tech synthetic fabrics. The shapes are lengthened, with leather soles. There is a return to rounded shapes, reminiscent of workwear. Sneakers, reflecting vintage shapes like those of running shoes or boxing shoes, come in shiny materials.



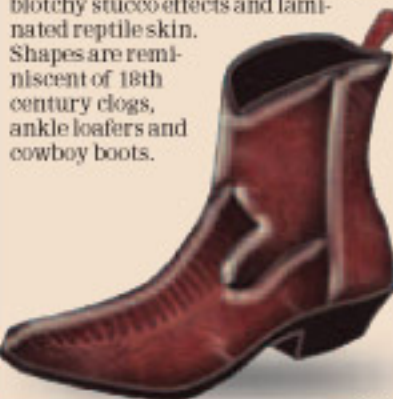
Café chantant

Optimistic and fun, the aesthetic approach of the early 1900s is obvious with unusual textures and metal leopard prints. With bare minimum sole and heels, the shoes feature rich materials, with an eye for modern luxury. There is the use of relief and printed nubuck, shearling and astrakhan fur fabrics. The forms are constructed but tapered, borrowed from elegant shoes like tuxedo slippers. And again, soft leg-hugging riding boots are back.



Rockoco

Sumptuous 18th century decoration takes an ironic rock approach. The designs reach above the ankle and materials include calfskin embellished with baroque inspired motifs, blotchy stucco effects and laminated reptile skin. Shapes are reminiscent of 18th century clogs, ankle loafers and cowboy boots.



Message in a shoe



Making sense of footwear trends for fall-winter 09, from Europe's fashion capital

trend report

What women need

At first glance, what is in might seem contradictory. But it is linked by a precise *fil rouge* (common thread). The four trends in women's footwear — sport chic, urban jungle, bio-design and hyper décor — address a woman's different moods. "The same woman can easily switch from one trend to another in the same day," says Premoli.



Sport chic

Materials and treatments are important. Buckles and subtle metal embellishments are alternated with fringes to give a simpler look for the uppers, along with options of open/closed narrow toes. Heels are a crossbreed between chunky and tapered. Both sewn loafers and flat heel-tall boots will be seen.



Hyper-decor

Everything flashy with a bit of jazz, the return of decoration. Metal trims are in evidence, as are the use of coloured stones. There are silk and rhinestones embellishments, suede, brocade and velvet materials, gold, silver and bronze. As for the heels, there is some unique styling here. Surprisingly, stilettos, which dominated the footwear trend till last season, is limited only to the hyper-décor theme.

— Mamta Todi

Bio-design

All things eco and bio become attractive — even heels are designed to look like barks and branches from trees! These designs are often aggressive with their floral and plant motifs. The solid city shoe finds a new, genteel version.



Urban jungle

Leather makes a comeback in extraordinary forms. Soft natural leather with wavy printed surfaces, lost many seasons ago, is in. Expect a touch of ethnicity, solid shapes, double materials, stable heels and masculine treatments. Natural leather in box calf cuts and soft leather with suede, peccary and crocodile effects, with a touch of fur, define this style.

Pic: Comitato Moda Anci

