

TRENDS

by **Donna Reynolds** for Focus on shoes
Photos courtesy of www.shoesplanet.com

► Flats

Flats have returned this fall with a vengeance, and are anything but boring. All over the world, women are snapping up these comfortable yet stylish shoes, and top designers have recognized the demand and are responding in a big way.

Styles for flats are as varied as the women who wear them, and range from **Pare Gabia**'s simple, brown leather mini-T-strap to **Guillaume Hinfrey**'s dressy crushed, gold ballet slipper complete with a sassy tan ribbon tie. **Carmen Ho**'s basic tan leather, tapered toe shoe is dressed up with a matching single-fold bow, and will work for both business and casual wear.

Colors are definitely not shy, and range from **Pare Gabia**'s bright red textured leather to **Walk That Walk**'s fuchsia stunner complete with contrasting red leather toe trim and buckle. And, while black has always been the most popular color for flats, **Rosa Mosa**'s design flies in the face of tradition. She's taken the simple black flat to new heights by using richly textured black leather trimmed with a thick strap and brass buckle.

Katia Lombardo dresses up a simple flat shoe by using multi-toned exotic leather, oval cutouts, and a sassy matching trim. And, if you think that wearing flats means sacrificing style, think again. **Fanziska Hübener** has combined tan and black suede in an interesting angular design with a tapered toe and slightly stacked heel. This rich shoe can be worn with either a skirt or pants, adding comfort and style to a working woman's wardrobe.



PARE GABIA



PARE GABIA



ROSA MOSA



CARMEN HO



WALK THAT WALK



KATIA LOMBARDO



FRANZISKA HÜBENER



GUILLAUME HINFRAY





CARMEN HO



KATIA LOMBARDO



KATIA LOMBARDO

CLEMENTS RIBEIRO



CLEMENTS RIBEIRO

AMATERASU



NICOLAS KIRKWOOD



CHIE MIHARA



MAX KIBARDIN

► Sandals

For fall, sandals can be seen with sturdy platforms or light dressy heels. This season, the selection is as varied as the designers themselves, and styles range from a strappy evening shoe to an open toe suede "t" strap sling back.

Dress sandals have evolved into something truly special. **Carmen Ho** has designed a spike heel, strappy black sandal embellished with a sweep of brown fur. **Nicolas Kirkwood** uses exotic leathers in his tall, stately dress shoe accentuated by dramatic curves at the ankle and across the vamp, while **Clements Ribeiro's** chunky gray suede shoe has jeweled straps across the toe and around the ankle. **Katia Lombardo** has gone in a different direction with her colorful strappy heeled sandal that features a blue and gold cross shaped medallion.

Traditional styling has been tweaked this fall in some dramatic new designs, and it's all about shape and structure. **Amaterasu's** high heeled, opened toe brown leather shoe features a sturdy stacked heel and thick sole with a delicate ankle strap that sweeps upward from the vamp, which features chunky chains. **Clements Ribeiro's** black leather peep toe sling back combines curving lines with a straight heel and open toe, giving the shoe a feeling of refinement. designers are using a variety of materials this season, ranging from **Chie Mihara's** rich blue suede chunky open toed beauty to **Max Kibardin's** navy lizard shoe that features a delicate toe treatment and contrasting triangular heel. **Katia Lombardo** has chosen a black and copper jacquard to create a sophisticated design.





► Bags

A gal can't have too many bags, and this fall, there are some fresh new styles and shapes from which to choose. From slouch bags to clutches, there's something for everyone.

This season, leathers run the gamut in color with earth tones predominating. **Espekt** has gone all out with a bright orange tasseled square hobo bag, while their soft camel leather bag also features a tassel closure and slender strap, and works for daytime wear. For a more casual look, a cream colored tote, trimmed in rich brown leather is sure to be a favorite.

Designers are combining materials, textures, and patterns to add interest. **Cacharel** marries rich brown leather with a textured floral pattern and twisted, multi-colored handle, while **Lucilla Paci** offers an interesting slouch purse that alternates an intricately braided pattern with smooth leather. A similar braided pattern brings interest to the handle of a sophisticated camel business bag.

The classic clutch has been updated, and this season, designers are showing these neat little bags in new textures and interesting colors. **Franziska Hübener**'s neat little textured clutch is a blend of lavender dressed up with a strip of deep purple. For evening, **R&Y Augousti** has pulled out all the stops with this gold, textured leather masterpiece.

Bold, contrasting shapes speak for themselves this season. **Michaël Verheyden**'s square bag features a loop handle and attention-grabbing closure treatment in both tan textured leather as well as an interesting black strip pattern that blends into a rich coppery shadowed luster.

ESPEKT



ESPEKT



MICHAËL VERHEYDEN



R&Y AUGOUSTI



ESPEKT



MICHAËL VERHEYDEN



FRANZISKA HÜBNER



CACHAREL



LUCILLA PACI



LUCILLA PACI

► Pumps

Pumps are still the key to a well-dressed woman's fall wardrobe, and this season's collections offer a wide variety of shapes, colors, materials, and styles that are sure to appeal to even the most discriminating woman.

Look for innovative shapes and interesting heel treatments to lead the way this season. **Chie Mihara's** burnt orange pump has an angular curved wooden heel and the shoe sweeps upward to the ankle delicate ankle strap. This shoe is embellished with a delicate, tooled design highlighted in green. **Franziska Hübener's** deceptively simple olive green textured leather shoe has a sturdy heel and an unusual rounded, almost stubby toe, while **Maloles'** dainty tan pump has a sculpted heel, rounded toe, and is cut low at the arch for real feminine appeal.

Traditional styles have been reinvented as well. **Amaterasu's** navy pump has a thick wedged sole and heel, and is embellished with a heavy brass chain. **Walk That Walk's** red pump has a heavy heel, which is balanced a slender upswept design, leather trim, and heel strap. **Max Kilbardin's** dress sandal is done in red metallic leather, while **Laetitia's** spike heel taupe dress shoe is decorated with lacy black trim.

Top designers continue to combine materials this season. **Amaterasu** uses rich brown suede trimmed in olive green. A touch of white at the toe adds interest to this shoe which has a functional heel. **Carmen Ho's** simple brown leather pump has a tall heel and is trimmed with a thick band of tan suede.

MAX KILBARDIN



FRANZISKA HÜBENER



AMATERASU



LAETITIA



CARMEN HO



CHIE MIHARA



AMATERASU



MALOLES



WALK THAT WALK





KARINE DUPONT



AMATERASU



EMMA HOPE



MALOLES



IL BISONTE



CACHAREL



KARINE DUPONT



PARE GABIA



BILL AMBERG

► Casual

Fall conjures up images of football games, falling leaves, and crisp, clean air. This year, casual fall fashion mirrors the season, and features some old favorites that have been redesigned for today's woman.

Leather bags are a must for fall, and top designers are using soft, natural leathers in fresh new styles that are also highly functional. **Bill Amberg's** tan shoulder bag in natural rust leather has a large zipper side pocket and is roomy enough for the busiest woman. **Cacharel's** double-handled, textured tan leather bag is dressed up with an interesting closure treatment, while **Il Bisonte's** brown leather tote bag is deceptively simple yet functional with a handy outer pocket and sturdy double handles. A matching leather, fur trimmed hat completes the look!

This season, top designers are combining materials to add interest and excitement to casual fall fashion. **Karine Dupont** uses a ribbed fabric trim on two unique off-white bags. **Maloles** has combined off-white shearling with highly polished olive green and orange leather in a unique, sculpted heel ankle boot, while **Pare Gabia** has trimmed his wedge heeled, navy blue mid-calf boot with a cuff of cream-colored fur.

Casual footwear has also been updated this season. **Amaterasu** has redesigned the clog, using black leather with a thick, contrasting stacked sole and heel, trimmed with gold loops that stretch across the vamp. **Emma Hope** has taken a casual sneaker to new fashion heights, combining tan and textured, brown leather to add zip to this functional fashion favorite.





► Boots

There's nothing boring about this season's collection of boots. Top designers have pulled out all the stops and have created fashionable, one-of-a-kind footwear that is sure to turn heads.

Colors generally lean towards earth tones, as with **Katia Lombardo's** laced up, brown suede, Victorian styled boot, but this season, top designers are showing patterned boots that create a colorful contrast to fall's more subdued color palate. **Cacharel** pretties up a tall, slender dress boot by using a floral pattern featuring a mix of brown, black, white, and purple, while **Maloles'** uses primary colors in an intricate, embroidered pattern to create an outstanding effect.

Textured exotic skins are also prominent this season. **Guillaume Hinfray's** flat heeled beauty blends different hues of orange, while **Jan Jansen's** playful multi-toned creation is a mix of natural colors and textures. **Katia Lombardo's** spike heeled boot is a spectacular blend of muted earth tones.

Ankle boots are anything but ordinary, offering an interesting alternative for casual or dress. **Amaterasu** has designed a kicky little boot with a retro feel, matching contrasting colors with bold styling. On the other end of the style spectrum, **Liz Carine's** startling dress ankle boot pulls together classic styling and colors in a bold and truly fresh design.

Spike heels are still a designer favorite, and create a long, slender line. **Katia Lombardo's** fall collection features simple lines that are emphasized by the dramatic heel. Her line includes a black, Navajo-inspired spike-heeled boot, along with a dramatic, white satin and fur bejeweled beauty.



KATIA LOMBARDO



JAN JANSEN



KATIA LOMBARDO



LIZ CARINE



GUILLAUME HINFRAY



CACHAREL



AMATERASU



MALOLES



KATIA LOMBARDO



KATIA LOMBARDO