

New pumps being shown for now into fall are, from left, a closed toe, open heel Bruno Magli design, a bone suit pump by Roz and Sherm and a "choked-up" pump by Mignani in luggage tan. (Staff photo by Steve Cantrell)

The fashion plate

Classic footwear, the bottom line

By RUSTLE SHAND

The whiz of the fashion shoe industry, Roz Becker, says "shoes are closing-in for summer into fall."

Some are entirely closed-in, but newest is the exposed toe or heel shoe. The D'Orsey style pump with low cut or no sides is also a fashion winner.

Bone is still a favorite color for summer but luggage tan looks importantly in Italy, the shoe industry capital of the world.

Black is the most important color for fall, making a very lady-like statement. It's closely followed by brights and pastels, very important when, done in style.

"Shoes you buy now," said Ms. Becker, "should be taken to you through four seasons. I feel that you should look for quality and be sure you're getting your money's worth."

ALL THE SHOES carried in the Roz and Sherm Bloomfield Plaza and Somerset Mall shops are

bought in Europe, said Ms. Becker. "So, our things are always advanced a year or two beyond the New York market," she added.

Anything you buy now in leather is a bargain, says Roz Becker. "Leather prices are rising so fast, you may pay 25 percent more for an item in the fall," she warned.

She also said new leather purses may soon be non-existent.

"That makes any leather purse in the stores right now a bargain," she said. "Many of the top Italian handbag makers can't get leather, so they are beginning to work in cloth."

Contrary to what we have heard, sandals are not out. "If you have them, by all means wear them," Becker said. "Sandals remain important but they are less stripper."

The pump, she said, merely heards the return to the more tailored clothes, and they are also a part of the nostalgic look at the '50s when a shoe wardrobe

consisted of one pair of black pumps and an assortment of bows to dress them up or down.

"THOSE WERE the good old days," Ms. Becker said, "when all the shoes were made in America on all those various shoe lasts that made it possible for you to buy a 'AAA' width if that was your size. The Italians make every shoe on one last in a 'B' width and you're expected to accommodate your foot to their sizes."

Ms. Becker works with the shoe manufacturers to create her own exclusive designs at her own exquisite taste level. She also controls the color of the shoe and worries over the "sock lining."

"Socks are important," she explained. "The lining of the shoe is not compatible to the exterior color and therefore lacks eye appeal." Although the shoe lining does not show on your foot, "you probably would not want the clashing color in your closet."

Volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, a program of the Volunteer Action Center of United Community Services, has weekly listings of volunteer opportunities. Further information about these and other volunteer needs at over 200 agencies may be obtained by calling the bureau at 642-7272. Any non-profit organization needing volunteer assistance may also call the bureau.

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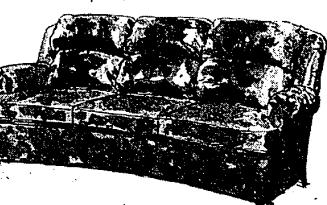
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