

# Women's shoes exude comfort

**L**IVELY LEGS this season will be walking down Easy Street in shoes that say high fashion, but feel comfy-cozy.

From pumps to saddle shoes, from boots to loafers, designers of women's shoes are putting their best foot forward with built-in comfort features such as wider in-steps, cushy padding and rounder toes.

In addition to such features, ladies today will find comfort in that flats are back in a big way — everything from loafers, moccasins and saddle shoes to ballerina slippers and dress flats. They'll also find the action in pumps is for mid-heel heights and lower.

The freshest materials for comfort construction are suede and kid leather, which have more stretch than other leathers.

As for style, the freshest looks of the season for both pumps and flats

will be choked up shoes — shoes with more material over the top of the instep than the scooped-out looks of previous seasons.

"THE LOUIE heel is what's new and exciting for fall, it's pretty, has shape, and not too high," said Cheryl Hall, Saks Fifth Avenue fashion director.

"Also, we'll be seeing lots of color in accessories . . . the bright jewel tones in shoes are replacing the browns and blacks. Opaque hose will be seen in bright colors and a variety of plaids, paisleys and lots of textures."

The classic look comes from boots — shoes so predictably pleasing they've become cold-weather mainstays. They steal the scene not only in the basic and oh-so-popular riding boot, but also in the Western whimsy of cowboy styles and in the fringe fashion of

over-the-knee black patent leather boots and heavy motorcycle looks.

"Two important fashion necessities for the season are the over-the-knee boot and the short bootie," said Annie Frank, store buyer for Roz & Sherm, Bloomfield Hills.

"Both are very chic and available in a variety of fabrics ranging from rich suedes, supple leathers and stretch Lycra. Shoes with a zipper will also be a hot look."

**THERE ARE** plenty of full boots made for walking, but ankle boots also are making big strides. Both cuts will feature not only flatter soles, but stacked and dress heels, too.

While shoes may get a fashionable foot in the door, the real emphasis this season is in leggings.

While designers used to do just

basic tights, now we're seeing leggings with omph, everything from ribbed knits to opaque nylon to shiny Lycra creations in colors and patterns ranging from winter brights to stripes and from pop-art prints to lace.

"To state it simply, hosiery is hot, whether worn with denim shorts, skirts, teeny skirts or trendy trapeze dresses."

"Opagues can be worn in the brightest of colors and should either match the dress or skirt or the shoe," said Annie Frank of Roz & Sherm. "We will carry opaque hose in peacock, passion purple, red, marigold and orange. Don't forget black opaque and sheers for a sophisticated and dramatic look."

For extra warmth, leggings in Lycra or cotton blends offer more thickness than nylon in varying degrees of tightness, depending on a woman's style and comfort needs.

## Designers break rules

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— Plaids . . . in season brights, sequin tartans and textured tweeds.  
— Skinny pant silhouettes . . . under big tops.  
— Legs . . . opaque hose in bright hues, bold patterns, classic black.  
— Body suits, cat suits under swing coats and chiffon dresses.

— Nouveau rapper . . . caps, gold jewelry, vinyl trench, fishnets.

— Short pleated skirts . . . from tartans to chiffon under long slim jackets.

— Slim straight skirt . . . at any length . . . short to long (with slit, of course).

— Leather . . . rebellious James Dean jackets.



The Rolls Royce image, affordably priced. Chanel-influenced black tunic jacket piped in black and white with above-the-knee harlequin skirt (\$390). Kathryn Scott, Birmingham.

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