

Trendy textiles at Lineapelle



Omniapel



San Fang



Morelli

Lovely' leathers in the May/June issue of *World Footwear* covered the leathers on show at Lineapelle and this issue deals with the textiles and other fashion items that were on display.

Many of the textiles took inspiration from those already in the shops. One that is much emulated is the gold washed creamy linen used on DKNY sneakers. For next summer, the mainstream look will be a perfect mix of natural product and subtle metallic finishes. Morelli has taken the look further by creating worn and abraded parts on the textile and creasing it before adding a metallic finish.

Hessian is also still very much at the fore and is being used everywhere including bags, which look good with natural leather handles. It has even been perforated and punched, with a thin backer added to make it strong enough. Raw edge, natural, unbleached canvas looked good in summer cowboy boots from Caravel with creamy crocodile embossed vamps. Espadrilles have been popular for two summers now and many materials suppliers must believe that this natural look will continue as they exhibited a great deal of torsion lace and lacy overlays in creamy natural colours (Morelli's were particularly nice).

In fact textiles are now so popular as a material that even leathers now emulate them with effects such as lace printed tone-on-tone on to pigskin as with Chinese exhibitor Animah. At Conceria Nathalie soft suede was used for the base which was faintly embossed to look like canvas, with burnt out lacy textiles laminated to the suede in classic whites or tone-on-tone naturals. The same treatment in dark colours with metallics offers a totally different look. For dressier shoes there were richer colours and materials. AT&T had patchwork made from chenille, silk and gold braid in warm plum and red colours for summer.

Printed textiles appeal to the younger sportier market. Colortex had photo prints of fruit on a light background for

girls, white alien images for kids and giant pixelated photos on mesh created a sportier and more aggressive look. Camouflage won't go away and appeared in several designs and colours, and this worked well teamed with stonewash canvas, especially in natural or muted colours that look as if they come from natural dyes. Animal prints can be seen everywhere on textiles, covering wedges and in metallic washed suede and leather for dressy shoes.

Technical

Anti-microbial finishes are still much to the fore. But today they seem to contain fewer harsh chemicals and more natural products or treatments that do not damage the environment. San Fang's (Taiwan) micro-fibre suede uses AgION's silver anti-bacterial compound to produce anti-fungus and anti-odour properties. In fact undyed, natural leather even fits into this category, being promoted by companies as an ideal product for people with problem feet such as diabetes sufferers, or for small babies.

Pidigi showed its 'Soft Shield', a soft and light anti-perforation material for the soles of safety shoes, that improves comfort. They are not only lighter to wear they also have the added benefit of being undetectable by metal detectors.

Natural soles

Natural leather-look soles with creamy natural unpolished

Prialpas soles

V. Vatzedakis

Davos soles

Sammi speed laces

stack heels, like '70s Western boots, were everywhere. Natural leather insoles and outsoles for sandals were inspired by Indian chappals, with uppers made of pale natural vegetable tanned looking leather that matures and looks better the more it is worn. Footbeds and soles are often 'stepped' so that they are not the same size and look even more hand-made. The traditional Indian look where part of the footbed comes up to meet the upper is also becoming fashionable.

Resin rubber soling is becoming more sophisticated and resembles leather more than ever. It looks best when the edges are skived and painted, as from Davos, where the soles were engraved in gold patterns with another colour polished on the rest of the sole. From Prialpas, natural whitened hand-painted finishes came on different base colours, which are perfect with the whitened leathers that are still going strong for another summer season. For fashion shoes there were plenty of towering wedges, inlaid with pieces of broken glass, coloured diamantes or studs. For sandals, natural looks remain popular even on wedges with hessian and printed canvas coverings.

Finer details

Trims and details are an important feature for next summer's shoes. Many actually looked almost wintry. Winter 2006's dark, aged bronze and gun metal studs, rivets and buckles have been carried through to summer with matching or coloured glass stones in surrounds that have also been given an aged look. Many other winter 2006 trims have also been carried through to summer, but on sandals rather than boots. For example, there are horn buttons and buckles,

reflecting the continuing demand for authentic materials and looks.

Summer and summer tourists have been big business in Greece for many years. Its jewellery designers are renowned and its shoe trim designers have now also entered the international class with individual products that have their own feel and look. V. Vatzedakis makes great summer sandal trims with natural turquoise stones, which are made to look more modern because of the surrounds and details made in antique bronze and gunmetal. There are also intricate interwoven chains for very summery sandal uppers.

Laces get sporty

Speed laces from Sammi looked sportier by being opened up, while ski hooks and speed laces had holes and cut away parts so you could see the lace through the middle. The new hardware is cut out so that it is very airy, looking not unlike the structure of the Eiffel tower. Sammi's new Brunito (antique gunmetal finish) has been improved dramatically so there is no colour or surface degradation, however hard the wear. These are trims for heavy-duty trekking and mountain boots.

Lanyards are in fashion as key ring attachments and plaited leather or cotton tubular ropes make good straps for bags (Domodossola). They come in neutral colours as well as in soft multi-coloured tones mixed with naturals or white. Webbing is still going strong from Limonta and looked well-worn with scuffed and frayed edges in faded outdoor colours such as sand and khaki. Summer certainly will have texture. 