



ALL CREDITS: MICAM

For autumn/winter 2015, classic styles will be updated with embellishments, woven materials and shine.

Street style offers inspiration

As a new generation grows up with access to the internet, blogs and vlogs, urban streets across the world are providing increasing inspiration for trends. "Street blogs are a huge influence on our industry these days," says Helen Sac from trends forecasting agency WSGN. "We can no longer just rely on runway to feed us our trends. We spend a lot of time looking to the streets, seeing what people are wearing and what they're doing."

For autumn-winter 2015, there will be styles seen in previous seasons, updated with embellishments, say experts. Shoes will have decoration, whether that's through surface interest or ornamentation, chains or buckles. We're going to see embellishment used in unusual ways.

For women, the mule will be updated by adding shine through the leather or adding texture, such as with pony skin. Colours will be deep and dark: luxury greens, mauve and purples with added shine.

Pointy Oxfords, of which there are many interpretations, will be a key look. "We have been wearing this shoe for a while now so consumers will want updates," says Ms Sac. This could be through the mix of materials or colour.

Prada and Miu Miu have been the champions of the pointed loafer and we will see more of these, perhaps with a white sole as a nod to the activewear market. "The kitten heel will also be an important shape as we look at active influences and the way the woman wants to be more comfortable. The leather is key. We're looking at soft, natural muted tones."

The pull-up over-the-knee boot was noted on recent catwalks and will be in stores in soft materials, but with added embellishments like chains, offering a bit of added value for the consumer.

Complementing the embellishment theme, woven materials look set to take centre stage, whether it's woven leathers or



Women's shoes will feature stacked heels and added shine.

textiles, used to add detail or as the main material on the upper. Woven styles will also complement some of the 'neo-tribalism' looks that will be prevalent in apparel.

"We're continuing with the summer sandal feel for women, but designers have crossed it over into winter," adds Ms Sac. "The key thing is the chunky loafer but with the crossover strap at the front, to emulate summer and a casual feeling. It can be done in a bold colour or a woven tapestry-type material."

Imagining the nights growing colder, designers have been drawn to icy and winter landscapes this season, so there will be a lot of whites and shades of grey. The snow Ugg-style boot will be textured on the outside with faux fur, shearling and the warmth on the outside, in an everyday boot shape.

The trainer and high-top will be important as the activewear trend moves further into everyday life. "People are wearing sneakers into office meetings," says Ms Sac. "Classic shoe markets can tap into this. Companies that would normally never make sneakers are moving in this direction because it's such a big trend." As part of this, there will be dressier or printed trainers. "Being able to personalise your outfits that way is going to be really key for this season."



Chunky soles will be prevalent for men, with updates in purples.

The stacked heel ankle boot has been extremely popular for many reasons: it's comfortable, it's practical, it goes with lots of things, and will be big again this season, but with some kind of embellishment or mixed materials. "We're not ready to move away from the shape yet but we want the update."

Platforms will be added to women's brogues in the same vein. "The platform comes from the active influence, and we are seeing that over the next season. It's adding a very classic brogue shape into the active shape and updated, whether it's by adding materials or embellishment."

Men's styles

The chunky soles will also be prevalent for men. Colours are deep and rich, which work well for a winter holiday season in deep purples, fine lilacs and turquoises. "What's really nice for winter season is the shine; the tarnished gold or a beautiful champagne pink metallic, as well as mercury," explains Kim Mannino, WGSN's director of trend services. "Metallics have been strong for a number of seasons and they keep evolving."

The Chelsea boot, which has been popular since the



Children will wear contrast soles, shine and 'neo' animal print.

1960s and is still strong, has been updated by mixing matt and patent leather, and interest added with a woven cap toe. "There will be more patent leathers for men, not just for evening but everyday, or leathers with an aged appeal, looking at where we can be elaborate."

Another key theme for both men and women will be heritage, using a colour palette of deep greens, navy, browns and blacks—colours that go very well in the winter season. "It's about taking the time to appreciate craftsmanship, how it's made and considered detailing," says Ms Mannino. "It is the return to things that are made well. We want things that are going to last a long time."

The men's brogue trends keep evolving, updated with fringing and zip closures instead of laces – in reds, forest greens, browns and greys. Highly polished leathers are key and the design will be updated with a chunky sole.

The modern oxford, in highly polished leather, will be prevalent, perhaps with cap toe seaming, or new lines across the heel. Loafers will have metallic pieces added around the upper or heel, or a finished metallic spray, "almost as if the leather's getting a bit rusty". Studs have become more sophisticated, smaller, and more tarnished.

In terms of male sneakers, there will be sophisticated high

tops, and hiking boots updated with metallic or polished leathers. Retro sneakers are updated in deep colours, while crafted leather and suede sneakers will feature laser cuttings. "Materials that are laser cut remain important," adds Ms Mannino. "We can even have ornate sneakers, sophisticated finishing with snakeskin replications or deep plum in patent leather or high polished green. Active has gone into mainstream and that will continue, so you will see lots of sneakers and high tops."

Children's shoes

Animal prints will continue for men and women, and will be apparent in many different ways—in very small or large print or mixing of breeds. It is also perfect for children's shoes, paired with chunky soles. There will be mesh used in children's shoes, again referenced from active wear, as well as colour blocking.

The trend is moving away from the owl prints that have been prolific in children's clothing and accessories over the past two seasons, with designers now referencing wolves and bears. The sombre grey effect of the wolf's coat will influence colour, and for younger children there will be 'bear feet' shoes with knitted paw prints in soft browns. For boys, there will be teal blues in hiking boots with soft shearling insides or dressed-up desert boots with chunky or colour-blocked soles.

For girls, slip-on Mary Janes will be updated with a buckle or strap, or a print at the front or the back, to make it a bit more playful. A bit of sheen or a bow will be added to ballerina pumps, and for boys, the denim that will be ubiquitous in apparel will find its way on to footwear, but in a more embellished way.

"We're such a diverse globe, every major city has so many nationalities that we have fusions, so for the winter season think eclectic," adds Ms Mannino. "It's about young people putting their own stamp on things and mixing up different ideas."



Kim Mannino, WGSN's director of trend services.