

WORLD FOOTWEAR



Hugo Boss

Swarovski adds a sparkle to next winter

Many autumn/winter 2006/2007 collections are set to sparkle with the help of Austrian crystal company Swarovski. Its Crystallized collection shown in New York in December highlighted a dazzling array of sparkling glamour, brilliant boots, sparklers for sand, and laid back for lazy days from big names such as Hugo Boss, Jimmy Choo, Rene Cavioli, Dolce and Gabbana, and Chanel. Crystals appear everywhere in the season's shoes and accessories and it's not only women that are set to sparkle as crystals can be found on men's shoes too.

According to Swarovski, this move towards more glitz and glamour comes from a resurgence in optimism and the desire to light up life in terms of outlook and fashion, making a marked step away from the dreary grunge and 'heroin chic' that long dominated the catwalks. Swarovski has created five trends to reflect the different facets of this 'brighter future': Classic Lights, Neon lights, Spiritual Light, Moonlight, and Stage Lights.

Lighting the way

Classic Lights challenges lovers of classic styles to add a little sparkle by adding a touch of cheeky humour to 1930s and 1940s styles. Taking Grandmother's jewellery box has inspired crystals such as Golden Shadow, Rode Alabaster,



Constanca Basta



Yanko



Pura Lopez



Dara Young

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Padparadsha, Crystal Copper and blue Zircon to add an eccentric touch to classic styles.

Reflecting the hypnotic strobes and digital neon that evoke the artificial brightness of a nightclub that need darkness to shine, Neon Lights incorporates neon-like crystals such as Fire Opal, Peridot, Böue Zircon, Purple Velvet Jet and Black Diamond to set the tone.

Stage Lights continues the idea of decadence and dramatic theatre. Crystal Copper, Fire Opal, Emerald and Purple Velvet are among the crystal colours that shed light on this trend.

In contrast to this party, carnival atmosphere, Spiritual Light reflects the guiding light to inner calm and joy, and lighting the path to contemplation of man's small place in the universe with crystals in Topaz, Crystal Copper Silk, Indicolite and Purple Velvet assisting the search for enlightenment.

Finally, Moonlight captures the contrast between dark romance and pearly white light, addressing the fragile and playful light that counteracts the black humour of the night. Reflecting this, crystals appear in White Alabaster, Purple Velvet, Crystal Pearl, Mystic Black and Dark Purple.

Two key new shades that have been introduced in the autumn/winter 2006/2007 ranges are Purple Velvet and Crystal Copper that capture the warmth and optimism of the season's trends. Both of these new colours have been designed in chatons, flat backs, fancy stones, crystal mesh, trimmings, transfers and beads, so that shoe and accessory designers have the freedom to combine the optimistic feel of the moment with a myriad of possibilities to ensure that the future really is a bright one. With this type of palette to hand, shoe designers could see their choice of leathers really sparkle. 



Hans Behr