

Street scene

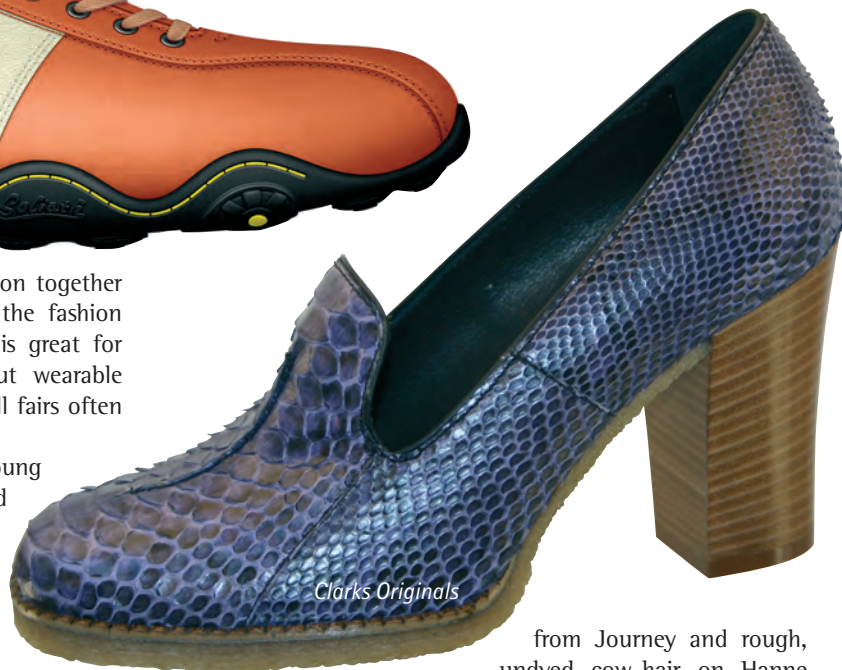


The best trade fairs mix accessories and fashion together and the scene is constantly changing like the fashion business itself. Bread and Butter in Berlin is great for sporty fashion and Scandinavia for different but wearable clothes and accessories. London has plenty of small fairs often held at the same time as London Fashion Week.

The Berlin fair is a good place to see new young labels with a sporty street look. Goliath from Holland drew on its sports shoe heritage to make nice simple leather shoes, but only slightly sporty. From Hungary, Tiszla showed real remakes of the old 70s Eastern Bloc shoes (with a low-tech anti-fashion feel) and using the same soles and materials. Many other 'original' labels have updated their collections to create an essentially retro feel. Möbus and Zeha are also old Eastern Bloc trainer labels that are trendy. They are simple and basic, but come in a huge range of colours and materials.

But 'retro' doesn't just mean old sports shoes. Clarks Originals has recreated styles from the 70s, using the same lasts, heels and styling, but in softer leathers and soles. High front slip-ons with big block heels in muddy green leather look fresh, new and comfortable with boxy toes. The Californian influence is strong for winter from Vans and Converse, while simple vulcanised sneakers by Le Coq Sportif have been updated with tweed and leather.

Fur was the big thing in Copenhagen with Mukluk-type boots the hot trend, including genuine hand-made Indian moccasin boots with rabbit fur legs from Amimoks. Great Greenland had purple moon boots in seal fur and beautiful matching unlined coats with purple fox trimmed hoods to go with them. Brown/natural undyed seal fur was used in high-class unisex accessories, mostly still made by Greenlanders (Inuit) who catch adult seals for meat. 'Pony' hair was also popular, with boots



from Journey and rough, undyed cow-hair on Hanne

Sko's hand made clogs.

Eye2Eye in London had a good selection of new small accessory brands, especially from France. Around fifty per cent was devoted to shoes including designers such as John Galliano, Missoni and Marc Jacobs. There were also some fun new ideas. Pretty court shoes with buttons which can be converted with different bars and straps by Marion Hanania. Ta'lilia launched dressy evening shoes and boots with interchangeable flowers, diamante and button trims attached with magnets. Pony hair again appeared widely, including turned up toe Western style boots by Enshalla and Journey. Many products are getting prettier, especially feminine velvet boots by New Kid. D-Kode's Portuguese boots for ladies and kids had lots of Bohemian decoration, brocade inlays, embroidery and knits all mixed together.

