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Life



VIVA LA NOCHE DE GALA

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2005 AMBASSADOR'S DIRECTORY

& PARTIES, PARTIES, PARTIES!

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ISSUE 14
2005

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WASHINGTON LIFE



LAURA MERKIN
OREGANO BELLE
STUDDO TOTE \$425
available at *All About Jane* in
Clarendon (703) 243-4424



BETTE MUELLER
EMERALD HAIRCALF
OPEN TOE PUMPS
\$385 available at
The Shoe Hive in Alexandria,
www.thesoehive.com



DIANE VON
FURSTENBERG
GENERAL JAN WITH FUR
JACKET \$645 available at
Hysteria in Alexandria,
www.shop hysteria.com



CYNTHIA STEFFE
OLIVE WASHED
CANVAS BRAIDED BUSSE
JACKET available at
Sugar in Georgetown,
www.shopsugarc.com



DIANE VON
FURSTENBERG
REVOLUTIONARY WRAP
DRESS \$440 available at
Hysteria in Alexandria, www.shop hysteria.com **HYSTERIA**
ALEXIA CRAWFORD KIM
NECKLACE \$50 available at
Sugar in Georgetown,
www.shopsugarc.com

LACOSTE MOSS,
ARMY, AND BLUE
TATTERSALL SHIRT \$90,
Bobby Jones Army, Lime and
Violet Shirt \$135, available at
Sherman Pickney in Georgetown,
www.shermanpickney.com

Reporting for Duty

Fall is having a **MILITARY MOMENT**—but you don't have to look like you're wearing fatigues

NEW STYLED TAKES ON OLD FAVORITES MAKE THIS TREND ANYTHING BUT STANDARD ISSUE!

—ALISON LUKEL, www.washingtonlife.com



LAMBERTSON TRUAX OLIVE STATE OF MINE BAG \$290 available at *Seasons* in Georgetown, www.seasonsof.com



BALENCIAGA ARMY SHORT TUGGLE COAT \$2,785 available at *Intermix* in Georgetown, www.intermix-ny.com

SIGERSON MORRISON MOSS STORM POINTED FLAT \$399 available at *Seasons* in Georgetown, www.seasonsof.com



CHRISTOPHER FISHER CASHMERE CREWNECK \$245 and SCOTTY BARBER PLAID SHIRT \$75, both available at *Sherman Pickley* in Georgetown, www.shermanpickley.com



HERMES SILK AND SILK TWILL TIES \$145 - \$155 each available at *Hermès boutique, Fairfax Square*, www.Hermes.com

Gold and turquoise necklace by S Good Fortune, \$140, and Moyna's beaded linen purse, \$175, at Hysteria (125 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria).

SHOPPER

Old Town Treasures

In the first of our occasional forays into boutique hopping, Shopper heads to Old Town Alexandria, one of our favorite districts, where plucky independent retailers coexist with vintage buildings and plentiful antique shops that conjure the area's merchant-class past.

Along King Street, our first stop is *Chinoiserie*, with its artfully edited collection of vintage furniture and Asian-inspired accents. Mixed in were a couple of sweet, unexpected gift ideas for kids: Makie's cotton pillows with colorful patterns and a small bag for bookish tots.

A couple of blocks east is *Bellacora*, an upscale apothecary for men and women. Inside, the smell is divine, thanks to fragrant soy candles, all manner of silky, youth-perpetuating potions and Mor's Shea Butter soaps. Speaking of smelling yummy, Susanne Lang's box of six eau de parfum are meant to be layered on for a little rural variety. *Tibs fab!*

Next up: the *Shoe Hive*, a paradise for trendy, well-heeled aficionados who live for brands like Belle by Sigerson Morrison and Butter. Betty Muller's patent leather flats, available in day-glo orange or *ey-yo*, have a swinging '00s silver heel and clear buckle — perfect, once the weather breaks, for that stroll to the Metro.

After splurging on shoes, hoof it over to *Hysteria*, the *Shoe Hive*'s sister shop. It's a mecca for young trendies seeking to stock their wardrobes with swank lines like Milly and L.A.M.B. Brimming with of-the-moment accessories at reasonable prices, *Hysteria* has a little something for every age, including a gold necklace with turquoise "good fortune" beads by local jewelry designer Mona Assemi, and Moyna's cream linen clutch purse with black beading.

— Jill Hudson Neal

Betty Muller's orange and green patent leather pump-toe flat shoes, \$325 per pair at the *Shoe Hive* (115 S. Royal St., Alexandria).

Cotton baby's pillows by Makie, \$35 each, and embroidered cotton school bag by Zid Zid Kids, \$35, all at *Chinoiserie* (1824 King St., Alexandria).

Bloss's anti-aging toner, *The Youth as We Know It*, \$28; perfumer Susanne Lang's box of six layering eaus de parfum, \$70; vegetable oil and Shea butter soaps by Mor, \$14 each, all at *Bellacora* (824 King St., Alexandria).

TrendSpotter

Edited by Suzanne D'Amato

[THE LOOK]

Unless you're going to a wedding (or are 7 years old), candy-colored shoes may seem more cutesy than cool. But the sugary style can work as part of a sophisticated wardrobe. The trick? Seek out grown-up silhouettes, such as strappy sandals or d'Orsay pumps, and leave the patent-leather Mary Janes to the second-grade set. Case in point, at left: Arlington resident **Lesley Wang, 24**, who spills up her Club Monaco coat and A-line skirt with pink Prada shoes that she scored on eBay for \$49.

— Suzanne D'Amato



GET THE LOOK

(Clockwise from top left)

Sigerson Morrison Belle suede pump, \$170 at the Shoe Hive (115 S. Royal St., Alexandria, 703-548-7105) and www.thesoehive.com

Payless Jessica platform pump, \$19.99 at Payless stores and www.payless.com

AK Anne Klein Demos patent pump, \$85 at www.zappos.com

BCBGirls Vantage pump, \$89 at select Macy's stores and www.macys.com

Manno Blahnik Thyresis slingback, \$565. To order, call Footcandy at 707-963-2040.



BY DAN LEVINE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

BY WENDY CHASEY AND SUZANNE D'AMATO FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



SHOPPER

When Spring Has Sprung, Suits Should Suit You Just Fine

Each season is a fresh wardrobe start. For spring, focus on suits. "Ideally, look for a skirt suit in a stiffer, lightweight fabric — like cotton mixed with some synthetic to give it shape, in a lighter neutral color," says Stacy London, fashion expert on TLC's "What Not to Wear." "My favorite is khaki because it doesn't show dirt as easily as cream or white but looks spring-appropriate and great when mixed with brights."

The great thing about suits is "you can break them up and create new outfits with the individual elements," she says. "So make sure you love the shape of your suit for you, not some passing trend."

—Janell Erlichman Diamond

Left: Tahari by Arthur S. Levine suit, \$199.99 at Huch's. Accessorize with coral necklars, \$200 at QueenBeeDesigns.com or 783-329-6768; Cynthia Rowley tea heel, \$299 at Saksanava, 1641 Wisconsin Ave. NW; or Dilbarian green bag, \$12.99 at Target.

Right: Tracy Reese belted jacket (\$435) and tapered pants (\$270) at Hysteria, 125 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Accessorize with Montebello bag, \$1,180 at Hysteria, and Alice shoes by Hollywood, \$345 at Shoe Hive, 115 S. Royal St., Alexandria.



PHOTO BY DEAN DANKO FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

SHOPPER

Happy Shoe Year

Instead of making resolutions we can't keep, this year we've focused on the obtainable. We promise in 2004 not to go for the same-old, but to make our shoes count. To start off the new year on the right foot, so to speak. Even with a champagne hangover, our feet will look good.

We'll stray from bland black and brown boots and focus on all things patent leather. Or quilted. We love kitten-heeled pumps. And the more embellishments the merrier: bows, buckles, flowers. Polka-dotted is a definite do.

"We love our shoes because they have the ability to transform an outfit as well as an attitude," says Jennifer Marino, owner of ShoeFly. "You want to be sassy? Put on a pair of strappy stilettos that wrap around the ankle. You want to be in charge? Wear a pair of red, high-polished leather cowboy boots with cropped pants."

We splurge: \$450 Jimmy Choo. We act slightly more practical: \$65 Aerosoles. We adore the onslaught of new local shoe boutiques: Sassanova, Shoe Hive, ShoeFly, Zelaya.

Says Sarah Cannova, co-owner of Sassanova, "If you don't love your shoes there is no point in leaving the house."

—Janette Erlichman

From top left across: Hollyworld's blue Chicago (\$365) and black Atlanta (\$295), at www.hollyworld.com. Camel dressback boots by Delman (\$295), at Shoe Hive, 115 S. Royal St., Alexandria. Gaby red heel by Jeffrey Campbell (\$125), at Sassanova, 1641 Wisconsin Ave. NW. Simply Mod pink leather T-strap (\$65), at Aerosoles, Union Station, 50 Massachusetts Ave. NE, and Georgetown, 1234 Wisconsin Ave. NW. Faryl Robin red cowboy boots (\$78), at ShoeFly, 2618 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Jimmy Choo flopped heels (\$450), at Saks Fifth Avenue. Dolce Vita black boots with pink buckles (\$250), at Zelaya (Inside Dairy Tool), 4949 St. Elmo Ave., Bethesda.



THE SHOE HIVE

Elizabeth Todd's boudoir-like shop is so tiny that 10 customers would constitute a mob. Still, there's room for styles by Emma Hope, Bethye Muller and Sigerson Morrison, Italian designer Tentazione, "fashion-forward" Motko, and more moderately priced footwear from Kors by Michael Kors, Sam Edelman, and Seychelles. Prices start at around \$60 and top out at \$400. What's the hottest seller? "Tory Burch," Todd says. "The flats fly out of the shop." Above, Courtney fits with Michael/Michael Kors's navy patent on a striped foam wedge (\$93). "This wedge would make my calves look killer!" she says. Above right, Bethye Muller's Star, in cotton pique (\$385). The Shoe Hive, 115 So. Royal St., Alexandria; 703-548-7105; www.theshoehive.com.

BLUSH

When Lauren Mason and Paige Speyer bought Blush last summer they set out to cater to the "suburban mom who can't make it into Georgetown but wants something to knock around in with the kids or wear to a cocktail party." So they've stocked the place with everything from T-shirts to jeans to cocktail dresses, as well as a full line of accessories. As for shoes, there are lots of skippy flats and sandals from Tory Burch and Sigerson Morrison, dress-up shoes from Bethye Muller, Hollywood and Delman, with prices starting at under \$100. Spring, says Mason, calls for wedges, cork bottoms and Tory Burch's boldly buckled "Ailey Flats" in patent leather (\$195). Says Courtney, opposite, "Oooh, I'm liking the shiny orange flat - it pops! The flats they're growing on me." Blush, 1089 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac; 301-340-3940; www.blushboutique.com.

The Washington Post

AT HOME

LIVING IN STYLE

SPRING

2007

Jim Kimsey's Piece
of Paradise on
the Potomac

Our \$7 Billion
Closet Habit

Seven Hot Spots
for Shoes (see page 40)

An Art Fair, Garden
Tours and More



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TODAY'S PAPER INSIDE

express

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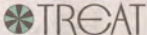
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The Shoe Hive
BEST LOCAL SHOE STORE

THE KENNEDY CENTER

The Kennedy Center

THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Kennedy Center
BEST THEATRE (BIG)

Look inside for all the **BEST OF** results!



5 PUT YOUR FINE A POINT ON IT
 Party like it's 1952 in Wolford's sheer animal-print tights (\$28, Wolford.com) and Steve Madden's "Lace a Vibe" cord-knit wedge mule pumps (\$75, SteveMadden.com)

6 THE AMAZING LACE
 Wolford's storage-y lace tights (\$35, Wolford.com) get party-ready with Kate Spade's saddle-strap boots (\$226, SteveViv.com, 45 E. Royal St., Alexandria, VA 24304-7005)

7 ALPHABET SOUP
 Turtlè gives into a sweet scramble with House of Holland's light (\$1,100, HouseofHolland.com) and Pointe Lingerie's boots (\$98, Shoefly, 2727 N. Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201-5493)

8 RESUME OF EYE'NS
 Cynthia Rowley's laced-up lace tights (\$290, CynthiaRowley.com) give up L'Oréal's sling-backs (\$900, L'Oréal Paris Avenue, 5990 Wisconsin Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815-6045)

"When the economy tanked, people wore what they had. But people are buying again, and **anything goes right now.**"

—BRIEF JOURNAL, 10 YEARS OF OCCASIONS BY MICHELE RIZZI, NYC, 2009-11



1 **It's Not About the Size** Alexander McQueen's booties zip up like a biker jacket, but we'd shoulder to see them on a Harley. (\$1,285, *It's Shoes*, 3006 N.W. 39th, 305-343-0303, Itsshoes.com) **2** **Leather and Lace** Katie Dugger's girly-inspired heels make grown-up cool again. (\$645, *The Shoe Store*, 127 S. Park Ave., Alexandria, 703-548-7305, TheShoeStore.com) **3** **Give a Twist** Eric Michael's ankle boots look like something a hip-hop might sport. (\$393, *Shoefly*, 2727 Wilson Blvd., 703-243-4493) **4** **Shoe Reads Please** Try JC Fashion's tall boots with mantras or poems. (\$395, *Shoefly*) **5** **Go for gettable** Kickin' You're wearing walkable! Hunt! Whitetails mid-cut for rolls and glam. (\$475, *Horse Shoes*, 3300 Wisconsin Ave., NW, 202-366-9700) **6** **Shedlike a Poet** Paint the town, or, burgundy in game-stopping boots by *Shoefly*. \$668, *Shoefly*) **7** **What a Stud** Adorned with brass accents, *Shoefly's* chisel-toe mid boots with a low harness waist and girly heels. (\$239, *Shoefly*, 3641 Wisconsin Ave., NW, 202-475-4400) **8** **Styrene Set** Steve Madden's wedges make 1970's style like *Play-Doh* easy. (\$130, *Nordstrom*) **9** **Shoe Camp** For woody vibes with your honey—or farmers market jeans—go a little bit country in 1950s ball-toe boots. (\$225, *UGG*, 1249 Wisconsin Ave., NW, 202-640-1206, uggaustralia.com) **10** **Clap to the Rhythm** Wooden heels and stud details rock out on Cynthia Vincent's boots. (\$375, *Sevens.com*) **11** **Little Black Success** Kate Spade reinvents the classic knee-high boot with red leather lining and gold hardware. (\$475, *Sevens.com*) **12** **Taking the High Road** Strutting aside, wear the knee like these Restructured "Black Street" wide-ankled chaps when paired with stony jeans or a little black dress. (\$235, *South Moon Under*, 2700 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington, 703-807-4063, Southmoonunder.com)



Suited Upper

Wear the black and white of the suit they dress your reflection," said Tara Fuchner, president, one half of personal-shopping sisters A&T The Fashionists (www.aandt.com/124.126). 191-665-2296. With apple green Tweed's Platoon, we'll be back with clothing, accessories and beds for the coming season for clients both here and abroad. 1941, 914-748-1476. www.aandt.com/124.126 and www.aandt.com/124.126. From Philadelphia's The Fashionists to Los Angeles' Tara Fuchner, 1941-665-2296.



10
9 11
12



- Eye-catching and retro as a suit, this party-wear coat and skirt can also be split up and mixed-and-matched with jeans, sweaters and other autumn staples. Try the jacket with a skirt in top-appeal, layered dress, **SEEK 104**, www.hugoboss.com. **100** Though orange made news with green and brown leather earlier as it's in fashion mode, it'll be right up there through Barry Miller's prism. "You'll get a lot more things — a noticeable interest in a pair of jeans or a pair of shoes," **101**, www.seeandwear.com. **102** Like a suit, modern version of something floppy-wire in the evening. It's a bit of a mix but not a pair of shoes just with the look, www.hugoboss.com. **103** Dressing the Paddington Bear with a suit, www.hugoboss.com. **104** But if you're not a fan of the suit, you'll be disappointed. The www.hugoboss.com is a mix of a pair of shoes or a pair of shoes, www.hugoboss.com. **105** www.hugoboss.com. **106** www.hugoboss.com. **107** www.hugoboss.com. **108** www.hugoboss.com. **109** www.hugoboss.com. **110** www.hugoboss.com. **111** www.hugoboss.com. **112** www.hugoboss.com.

IDEA LIST



NEED INSPIRATION? Big cat prints are still the season's hot tip in animal prints.

Tara's Fall Tips

Fashion magazines do the work for an instant paycheck that fall in big girls, and they're just not getting on the scene. The Fashionists' Tara Fuchner shares her advice about what she's buying — and wearing — in the season.

101 **BOHO JEANS.** "I don't love how people think of it and think it's just a trend," she says. "I think they are hard to pull off."

102 **RIGHT FABRICS.** "You'll see a lot of people in the stores — tweeds, wools, silks, linens. "Wearing something in a late fabric really dresses up jeans," she says.

103 **LEOPARD PRINTS.** "I don't love how people think of it and think it's just a trend," she says. "I think they are hard to pull off."

104 **PUNKY BUCKLES.** "You'll see a lot of people in the stores — tweeds, wools, silks, linens. "Wearing something in a late fabric really dresses up jeans," she says.

105 **BROWN SHOES.** "You'll see a lot of people in the stores — tweeds, wools, silks, linens. "Wearing something in a late fabric really dresses up jeans," she says.

106 **CAPES.** "You'll see a lot of people in the stores — tweeds, wools, silks, linens. "Wearing something in a late fabric really dresses up jeans," she says.

lookout old town

FASHION

2

Desk's of Old Town

The original incarnation of this menswear shop dressed depart weeks from the 1980s until closing in 2008. Now White Desk's re-ventured the store in 2009 with a trendy mix of well-crafted suits, blue-tinted t-shirts, vintage menswear, 1950s, and 1960s, plus blazer, ties, shirts, hats, shoes, 1960s watch, jewelry, plain shirts from Paul & Shark, and sunglasses, cuff links and more options. 104 E. 14th St., 703-394-4100



7

Hysteria

Manager Alicia McCallister partnered with business-as-usual as the spot's green walls, purple mood-driven by wall-to-wall, suit over-everyday bags from Coach & Burberry and lingerie frocks from Badgley Mischka. Owner joined the Mark & James. 105 E. 14th St., 703-648-6100

1

FashionEvo

This new boutique specializes in cool, well-priced casual wear in sizes 20-24. Trendy print and embroidery by Ansel System, 100% by plus-sized gray jeans and other separates from Cooper's Fresh Designer's own line, Kingsley Park, 204 E. 14th St., 703-394-0207



6

Skation Gallery

The very recent floor spot brings with stylish hip jewelry pieces such as Richard's the Jewels Jewelry's cheeky ribbing rings and a diamond ring. 1400 and custom pieces available by owner Christine Skation. In approximately 22 E. 14th St., 703-251-8100



8

The Shoe Hive

A new, large location next to Hysteria makes this business concept to carry more women's and kids' shoes, including Tory Burch and Kate Spade. Details are a few blocks away, you can also see a new carpet and this jewelry shop as before bags and shoes, 104 E. 14th St., 703-648-6100



3

Current Boutique

The Bayou Charmin designer shop recently opened this second upscale location, featuring a mix of high-end and affordable brands. Details and features available upon request, 104 E. 14th St., 703-648-6100

4

Bloomers

The newer store spot to trendy sportswear follows a 2008 success the way of 100 E. 14th St., 703-394-4100

5

Treat

The popular "treat spot" boutique — which serves up a frequently updated line of past-season designer pieces of early discovery — moves to a new larger location, now meaning there's more space for all the women by Sally Tsang, jewelry by worthy dresses by Tilly and statement blouses by regional designers such as Ruth Boyd and Alice Walker. 107 E. 14th St., 703-648-6100



9

Vintage Mirage

Owner Ester Gorman shifts the slightly out of the way, second-floor space with well-priced vintage finds — think 50s Dior dresses and Justin D'Amico shirts. Smoothing the good racks will appeal most to wife finds with time and purchase. 205 E. 14th St., 703-648-6100

leg

VROOM

In eider days (or, at least, for the past few seasons) a glimpse of stocking was looked on as something far from shocking. Snooty black tights ruled both runways and workdays. But this fall, designers encrusted hosiery with sequins and beads, and rolled out lace and fishnet styles that'll make a can-can girl weak in the knees. "Clothes this season don't have much trendiness," says designer Cynthia Rowley, who trotted out metal-studded and lace-trimmed pairs. "Embellished tights can be the thing that's spontaneous about your outfit." The ideal mate for such ornamental legwear: falls sky-high statement heels and punky booties. Just be prepared for all eyes to be on your chic calves. "And I worry a little bit that the studded pairs might set off the metal detector at the airport," Rowley laughs. *—JENNIFER BARNES*



1 **NEWKIDSHOOD**
Ditch a sheath with Wolford's eye-thriller 250 Wolford, Venice Garter, 703-448-8188 and Single Point Sealer 24's Sheer, 800-6 M. In NY, 212-942-0225.

2 **WOLFEY SHANE**
Nasty-herbivore stockings (2E25, Thuggs.com) play off the updated Versace-style of T&A's suede pumps (2752, Sussanara, 640 Wisconsin Ave. NW, 202-471-4402).

3 **WORLD-WIDE WEE**
Pair Calvin Klein's spiderly gray Salsara with YSL's point-heeled crocodile-velvet (318 and 3175, Nordstrom, Patten/Caro at Pentagon City, Arlington, 703-485-4202).

4 **WISH FULFILL**
Wolford's fine-weave maroon Salsara (345, Wolford) bring a sultry silhouette that to Loeffler Randall's edgy print platform heels (347, Sussanara).

lookout styles

FALL BOOT GUIDE

SOCIAL CLIMBERS



BOOT JUNKIES may get whiplash this fall. The sheer range of styles (Peep-toe booties! High-high! Fur-trimmed heels!) could power more costume changes than an average "Glee" episode. Could the stomper stampede be a sign of financial recovery? Maybe. "When the economy tanked, people wore what they had," says Sassy Jacobs of Sassanova. 916 Whittier Ave. SW, 352-471-4433. "But people are buying again, and anything goes right now." STYLING: JANE GORVINE

On the Cover

BUCKLE UP! (Clockwise from top) An Italian-made peep-toe bootie from the brand's fall collection; Prada's "Cavalry" boot; a pair of black boots with fur trim from the brand's fall collection; a pair of black boots with fur trim from the brand's fall collection; a pair of black boots with fur trim from the brand's fall collection.



Styles | fashion



A Fall Order

When you help other people hunt for clothes, like personal shopper Tara Weintritt of *Two Fashionistas*, you can forecast seasonal trends better than a Weather Channel pro. "It's a flirty fall," she said. "Styled have moved back to elegance: cinched waists, tailored pants, kitten heels." We sent her barreling through the boutiques of Georgetown and Old Town ISO of autumn glories. She came up with shiny patent shoes, ladylike tops and loads of spice-market colors. We predict a warm, feminine front — at least in your closet. —LINDSEY HANCOCK

Fashionista Faves

- 1 **Mink a woman's appearance** with Carolina Ray's neckties. (2016, 5000K, 402 WOODBURN AVE. 949-262-2020)
- 2 **Gallop** cowboy jeans on Pam's puffs. (209, FORTYFOUR, 487 FORTYFOUR STREET DR., ALHAMBRA, 760-442-0242)
- 3 **Patrol Beach** items Georgetown on Tony Burck's silk, diamond-encrusted jeans. (202, BIRCHMOUNT, 247 WOODBURN AVE. 949-262-2142) 4 **Shak** with its matching jacket (see Weintritt), made with boots and a snare. 5 **Flirt** with its matching more-than-casual jacket. (242, FORTYFOUR) 6 **Dulcy** as charged, Tony Burck finds a custom wool coat for her. (202, BIRCHMOUNT, 247 WOODBURN AVE. 949-262-2142) 7 **Spooky** head scarf made just recently in South. (242, WYSTER, 22 & 238 PIA ST., ALHAMBRA, 760-442-0242) 8 **Now** is with a cut-around, capri Tony Burck sweater. (202, BIRCHMOUNT) 9 **Purple** jacket gets mad and turned on. See what's on page 207. (202, 402, 26 & 202, 21, ALHAMBRA, 760-442-0242)



lookout fashion

HIGHER POWERS

Look downward, angel. The biggest thing in spring fashion isn't a dress or top; it's a Washington Monument-high shoe. "In bleak times, heels empower you," says Shoe Hive's Abigail Hopkins. But unless you want to look like a *Real Housewife* of Arlington County, wear lowering heels subtly—say, gladiators with slim pants or patterned pumps with a solid frock. **—JENNIFER WATSON**



(1) Purple ruffles make Steve Madden's 6 1/2-inchers a girly pairing for a pastel sheath (\$39, Piperlime.com). **(2) Bettye Miller's** rose-gold pumps add a patterned pop to pairs (\$34), Shoe Hive, 101 S. Royal St., Alexandria, VA 22304-7101. **(3) Don a breezy dress** with Jeffrey Campbell's ballerina platform (\$19, Nordstrom, Tysons Corner Center, 101-91-1171). **(4) So Lu Taylor in the '60s**, Sam Edelman's studded gladiators toughen up a flirty frock (\$79, Zappos, 4947 S. Elmo Ave., Beaverton, OR 97005-0001). **(5) Candy-shop colors** look sweet on GCBGirls' platform (\$19, Nordstrom). **(6) Buckle and metallic** bootie or 'nail Michael Kors' sandals a futuristic vibe (\$135, Shoe Hive). **(7) Jean Jett** would rock out in D'Adda's studded stunner (\$79, Piperlime).



Old Town

ALEXANDRIA



- 1 100 King** Lebanese Taverna centers series up Mediterranean tapes at their hip, new venture (100 King St.; 703/299-0076; www.100king.com).
- 2 A la Lucia** Michael Naven, the longtime maitre d' at Galileo downtown, is now at this tiny Italian eatery (115 Madison St.; 703/836-5123).
- 3 Olde Towne School for Dogs** Animals and their caretakers find everything they need here, from puppy training to organic gourmet treats (529 Grosoco St.; 703/836-7643; www.olde-towne-school.com).
- 4 The Shoe Hive** For Marc Jacob, Sigerson Morrison, Bettye Muller and more (115 S. Royal St.; 703/838-7105; www.theshohive.com).
- 5 Stanton Gallery** Alexandria native Christine Stanton creates modern and custom, handmade jewelry (114 S. Royal St.; 703/299-3055; www.stantonjewelry.com).
- 6 Territory** Eclectic, adventurous and even rustic choices abound at this home furnishings destination (1212 King St.; 703/836-5464).
- 7 Torpedo Factory** This haven of artists' workshops and galleries was once an actual torpedo manufacturing plant (105 N. Union St.; 703/838-4565; www.torpedofactory.org).
- 8 USPTO Museum** The Patent and Trademark Office meets the National Inventors Hall of Fame (600 Dulany St.; 571/272-0095; www.uspto.gov).
- 9 Vermilion** Scene makers pack this low-tilt, red-brick bar and eat up the decent American fare, too (1120 King St.; 703/684-9669; www.vermilionrestaurant.com).

Old Town Alexandria can't properly be called a resurgent neighborhood. In fact, it's been surging for more than 200 years, since George Washington himself graced its sidewalks. Living among the Lee family's homes and up the road from Washington's Mount Vernon estate, residents of D.C.'s most storied suburb are fiercely proud of their heritage. Yet until recently, the eye toward the past gave Old Town a reputation as a somewhat stuffy community that lagged behind culinary and cultural trends. Street names like King, Queen, Prince and Duke added to the uppercrust, reserved image. Clearly, times do change. Although Alexandria can still be a bit sleepy, quieting down on weekends far sooner than other popular Virginia 'burbs, the area has enjoyed an awakening during the past decade. Nudged on by expats from D.C.'s top kitchens and artisans that you would expect to find on 14th Street—to say nothing of the ubiquitous real-estate boom—the neighborhood now retains its historical charm while enthusiastically embracing the future. There: What's old is new again.—JEFF DUFFOL