

# HAUTE HEELS

Strappy, platform, wedge and more:  
This spring, feet come first



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The Chinese zodiac tells us it's the year of the rat, but I beg to differ: Now that fashion has finally gotten over endless "it" bags, it's the year of the statement shoe. And anything goes, as long as it's eye-catching, unusual or bright — or all of the above.

The city has gone positively crazy for bits of strap and leather. Town Shoes has collaborated on a spring collection with fashion designer David Dixon in patent fuchsia, yellow and cobalt; Ron White unveils his revamped flagship store in the Manulife Centre today; and Browns has a 2,500-square-foot boutique in the works on Bloor (next to Nike) that will open later this month and feature Manolo, Miu Miu, Pucci, Givenchy and Costume National. Not to mention Corbo, Plum and Specchio, the latter with its colourfully swirling Stephen pumps, equal parts Florentine marbled paper and Jackson Pollock splatter, and multi-coloured gouache Dries van Noten stilettos. At this rate, Yorkville will soon have as many shoe stores as it has hairdressers.

The craze isn't just downtown: At Zola (1726 Avenue Rd. and 45

Avenue Rd.), it's a strappy metallic magenta heel by Rupert Sanderson that catches the magpie's eye. "I think we went through a stage where there was emphasis on the bag," says owner Debra Anissimoff, who is also bringing in hot London label Scorah Pattullo this season. "Shoes right now have an emphasis on colour and feel-good brightness, and everyone's excited because they don't already have a fuchsia shoe or an orange shoe. And the brighter the colour, the more you think of hot and sun and summer, which we need right now!" And have you checked out Aldo and Nine West lately? It's like a rainbow exploded.

Also uptown, there's the sleek white-on-white shoe boutique Madison (333 Eglinton Ave. W., 416-932-9978), a new and welcome addition to the well-heeled neighbourhood with fashionable footwear from labels like Enzo Angiolini, Circa Joan & David, Bandolino and Nine West. And last fall, Queen West clothing designer Glynis Dupuis of Response opened Lustre on the Danforth (439 Danforth Ave., 647-435-8195) and it has since become a regular shoe mecca for east-end locals, and a destination for everyone else.

The chic shoe to get right now is by Pierre Hardy for Gap. Hardy is the bad boy of French shoe design and his stunners normally start at \$700. But his far less expensive mini-collection of strappy platforms and gladiator flats arrives in Gap stores (Yorkdale, Eaton Centre and Yorkville only) on Monday, St. Patrick's Day. You'll need the luck 'o the Irish to snag a pair.

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- 1. Green Mary Jane pump with covered button, \$148 by Browns ID at Browns (brownsshoes.com)
- 2. Brown multi-strap leather on wooden platform, \$128 by Pierre Hardy exclusively for Gap, arriving March 17 (at Yorkdale, Bay and Eaton Centre locations only)
- 3. Magenta metallic d'Orsay pump by Rupert Sanderson, \$750 at Zola (zolashoes.com)
- 4. Jobilyn multi-coloured reptile gladiator strap, \$100 at Nine West (ninewest.ca)
- 5. El Naturalista red Tibet sandal, \$209 at Trove

# MOS THEAVE

## RESTAURANTS

The hitch with healthy food. Page 19

## WINE & SPIRITS

Oenophiles online. Page 20





**1.** Camper Twins "Candy" heels feature multicoloured discs of patent leather, like Smarties, covering the vamp and rubber heel, \$200 at select Ron White locations ([ronwhite.ca](http://ronwhite.ca))



**2.** Hand painted cork peep toe wedge, \$460 by Anyi Lu exclusively for Ron White ([ronwhite.ca](http://ronwhite.ca))



**3.** Hot pic two-tone pink and orange satin peep toe slingback by Nine West, \$100 at Nine West stores and Madison ([ninewest.ca](http://ninewest.ca))



**4.** White and pale green Coco canvas platform shoe by Chloe, \$895 at Davids ([davidsshoes.com](http://davidsshoes.com))



**5.** Coral patent slingback heel with sphere detail by Marc Jacobs, \$635 at Davids ([davids-footwear.com](http://davids-footwear.com))



**1.** Chie Mihara dark purple Cotilla strappy suede heel, \$350 at Davids ([davidsfootwear.com](http://davidsfootwear.com))



**2.** Chie Mihara Jonas croc-embossed brown leather gladiator sandal, \$350 at Davids ([davids-footwear.com](http://davids-footwear.com))



**3.** Chie Mihara colour-blocked red, brown and nude slingback, \$350 at both Browns and Davids ([brownsshoes.com](http://brownsshoes.com))



**4.** Chie Mihara Cubist slingback in woven black, white and lime leather, \$398 at Browns ([brownsshoes.com](http://brownsshoes.com))

**5.** Chie Mihara strappy two-tone gladiator sandal with wooden sole, \$398 at Browns ([brownsshoes.com](http://brownsshoes.com))

**6.** Chie Mihara Saima quilted and colour-blocked pump with metallic, striped and red pieces, approx. \$350 at Lustre ([looklustre.com](http://looklustre.com))

**7.** Chie Mihara Tabu nude and white patent slingback pump, \$350 at Davids ([davids-footwear.com](http://davids-footwear.com))

## Chic to Chie

Chie Mihara, 39, is a shoe designer to watch. Mihara was born in Brazil to Japanese parents and now resides and designs her handcrafted shoe collection in Spain. Mihara worked at Charles Jourdan before launching her eponymous brand in 2002, and while Browns and Lustre carry custom-colour variations of Mihara's latest collection, tony shoe mecca Davids has brought the line in, beginning with spring. The discerning Faye Markowitz has been following Mihara's progress for several years and was impressed by the consistent creativity and quality of design. Earning the seasoned shoe buyer's stamp of approval to share space with Chloé, Veronique Branquinho and Christian Louboutin is no mean feat.