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A FULL-CIRCLE VIEW OF WHERE WE LIVE

fall style preview

free-spirited in West Texas

\$3.95 September 2011





Leather is everywhere this season, and not just in your typical bomber jackets. Most of the pieces we've seen are lightweight and wearable even now. French Connection lined leather sheath with subtle perforations, \$520, Dean-Kingston/Fort Worth. We added a Les Copains fur collar with grosgrain ribbon tie, \$295, Saks Fifth Avenue/Galleria, Dallas; Lena Barnard bronze- and white-bead necklace, \$145, A. Hooper & Co./Fort Worth; Jimmy Choo wooden platform and snakeskin ankle-strap shoes, \$725, Saks Fifth Avenue.

Shopping information on page 32

FallStylePreview

By Meda Kessler Photos by Ralph Lauer

We headed West — far West Texas, to be more specific — seeking escape and inspiration. The mind-numbing heat here in North Texas gave way to cool mornings, dry desert sunshine, star-filled nights and a palette of colors that helped inspire us as our beat-the-heat journey took us to Alpine. There, the brilliant pinks and blues in the sunsets, the dusty hues of the southern Rockies and Mother Nature's earth tones all mirrored our favorite finds as we transition into what we hope will be cooler weather, and soon. Thankfully, there's an abundance of supple, lightweight leathers, short-sleeved sweaters, sheath-style dresses and thin knits, all designed to wear now and then to pair with jackets, tights and boots when fall does arrive. Outerwear is showing up in the shape of the poncho (yes, it's back) and embellished coats as well as heavy jacket-style sweaters. We admire the independent spirit of the Alpine region, and that's another cue to navigating the trends this season. Whatever the fashion pundits tell you, it's all about buying pieces you love and making them your own.

the free spirit



the free spirit



When you think knits, think of fun, versatile pieces along with your more traditional styles. We love the playfulness of this Elizabeth & James poly/spandex bell-sleeved blouse with lining, \$395, Neiman Marcus/Ridgmar Mall, Fort Worth.

It tops a mid-calf Bailey 44 rayon/spandex knit skirt, \$109, Nordstrom/North East Mall, Hurst. Lionette Designs Jet bead necklace, \$230, and natural and carved feather necklace, \$170, Leddy's Ranch at Sundance/Fort Worth.



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Shapely dresses are already on the racks, and we love this slightly retro style. Wear it with high-heeled pumps or style it with funkier accessories. We topped this slim number with a poncho that contrasts nicely with the dress's lean silhouette. Lafayette 148 viscose-blend dress in a deep chocolate, \$378, Neiman Marcus/Ridgmar Mall, Fort Worth; Helene Berman wool-blend camel cape, \$248, Nordstrom/North East Mall, Hurst; DKNY bone fishnets, \$15, Nordstrom; Elie Tahari suede wedges, \$398, Neiman Marcus; Tres Chicas carved jade bead necklace, \$320, Leddy's Ranch at Sundance/Fort Worth; Alexis Bittar wood bead necklace, \$495, and ring, \$295, Neiman Marcus.



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RESOURCES **A. Hooper** Chapel Hill Shopping Center, 4601 West Freeway, Suite 216, Fort Worth; 817-348-9911 **Dean-Kingston** 821 Foch St., Fort Worth; 817-698-8323; www.dean-kingston.com
Lane-Knight Boutique 6333 Camp Bowie Blvd., Suite 208, Fort Worth; 817-731-4002;
www.laneknight.com **Leddy's Ranch at Sundance** 410 Houston St., Fort Worth; 817-336-0800;
www.leddys.com **Neiman Marcus** Ridgmar Mall, 2100 Green Oaks Road, Fort Worth; 817-738-3581;
www.neimanmarcus.com **Nordstrom** North East Mall, 1101 Melbourne Road, Hurst; 817-590-2599;
www.nordstrom.com **Saks Fifth Avenue** Galleria, 13550 Dallas Parkway, Dallas; 972-458-7000;
www.saksfifthavenue.com **Stanley Eisenman Fine Shoes** The Village at Camp Bowie, 6333 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth, 817-731-2555; and Trinity Commons, 3000 S. Hulen St., Fort Worth, 817-377-9399; www.stanleyeisenmanshoes.com

Rich berry-inspired hues are on everyone's list for fall and are a great foil for your basic blacks. We'd wear this Escada velvet blazer with everything from jeans to riding pants, \$1,175, Saks Fifth Avenue/Galleria, Dallas. Here, it tops an Equipment silk shirt, \$208, with a scarf from Collection 18, \$34, both from Nordstrom/North East Mall, Hurst. Ecru cotton/spandex skinny trousers, \$145, Leddy's Ranch at Sundance/Fort Worth; Vince Camuto two-tone suede platform shoes, \$118.95, Nordstrom; Theodora & Callum gold-tone and carnelian stone pendant, \$195, Neiman Marcus/Ridgmar Mall, Fort Worth.



It's all in the details: A glimmer of metallic in the skirt and subtle touches such as a contrasting collar and pleated ruffle on the blouse make these separates extra-special. Madison Marcus silk blouse, \$215, A. Hooper & Co./Fort Worth; alice + olivia stretch wool metallic skirt, \$330, Saks Fifth Avenue/Galleria, Dallas; Amanda Sterett hoop earrings, \$218, A. Hooper & Co.; leather belt, \$54, Nordstrom/North East Mall, Hurst; Alexis Bittar ring, \$275, Neiman Marcus/Ridgmar Mall, Fort Worth.

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Opposites attract, at least in the case of a demure blouse and a sassy leather skirt. Trina Turk silk blouse with bow tie, \$260, Nordstrom/North East Mall, Hurst, pairs with a soft pleated Parker leather mini, \$286, Saks Fifth Avenue/Galleria, Dallas. We couldn't resist adding a pair of fishnets and these special Miu Miu pony-hair and gold glitter heels, \$720, Saks Fifth Avenue. Elizabeth & James Monroe tortoiseshell sunglasses, \$224, Lane-Knight/Fort Worth. Nixon tortoiseshell watch, \$150, Nordstrom.



Color blocking returns this season. It's an easy look to pull off, especially with brighter bolts of color. We like a more subtle approach along with a mix-and-match combination of textures: Trina Turk wool coat with leather toggle closures and faux fur trim, \$456, www.trinaturk.com; Suzi Chin silk color-block dress, \$178, Nordstrom/North East Mall, Hurst; DKNY striped tights, \$18, Nordstrom; Prada suede sling-backs, \$750, Saks Fifth Avenue/Galleria, Dallas; Elizabeth & James Fairfax sunglasses, \$184, Lane-Knight/Fort Worth; Ava fold-over gray suede bag from Kooba, \$545, Neiman Marcus/Ridgmar Mall, Fort Worth.

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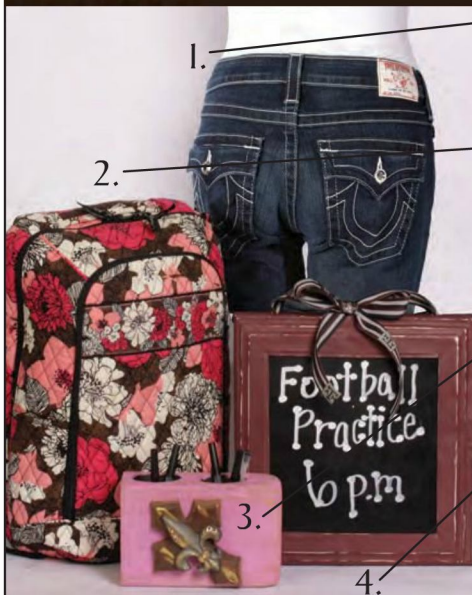
FallStylePreview



Kara Ross
bold gold cuffs
feature insets of
shimmery reptile
skin, everything
from silvery-
gold python,
\$362, to crimson
lizard, \$318,
Lane-Knight/
Fort Worth.
Josie Natori silk
cowl-neck blouse,
\$295, Saks Fifth
Avenue/Dallas.

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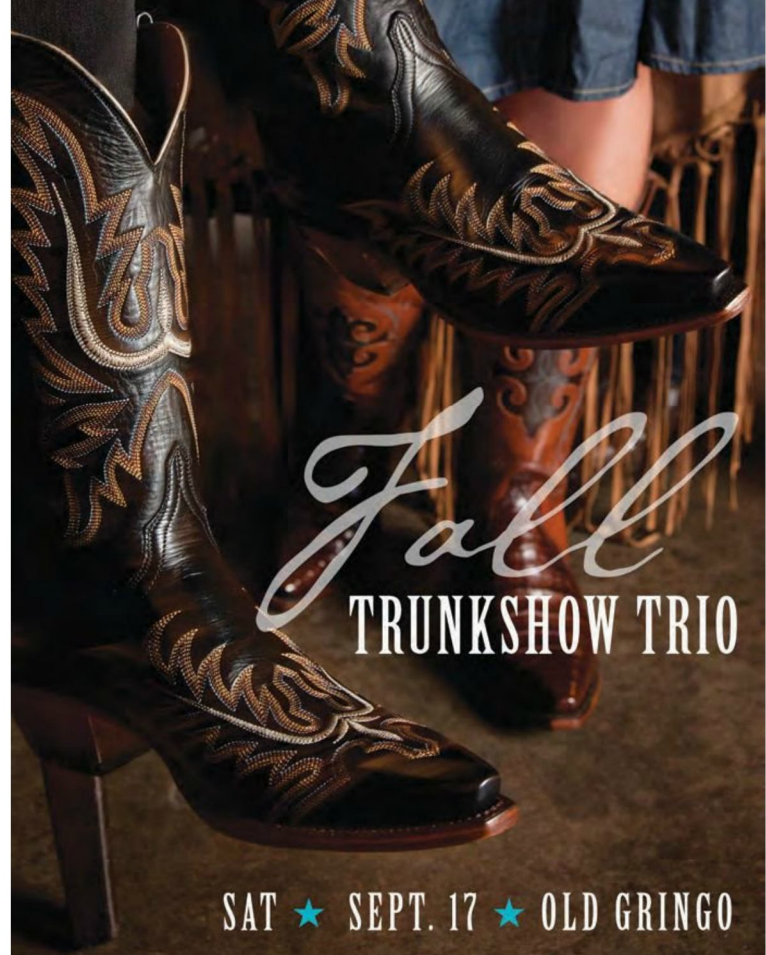
1. **True Style**-Your friends will envy these dark denim Becky Disco Fever skinny jeans from True Religion. (Groovy's \$205)
2. **Rockin' in Rouge**- Vera Bradley's new laptop backpack in Mocha Rouge makes organization stylish and functional. All new Vera Bradley colors and styles for Fall are out now as well! (Groovy's \$99)
3. **Writing in Style**- This dual pen or pencil holder is a great gift for teachers or for your home desk. (Candle Corsets \$22)
4. **Schedule Saavy**- Whether it's football practice or what's for dinner, this hanging chalkboard is great for all reminders. It comes in a variety of sizes and colors. (Moore Tin \$25)

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FallStylePreview



We live in separates, especially in fall and winter. Two luxe fabrics, cashmere and leather, make a winning combination. A short-sleeve Max Mara cashmere sweater in a flattering shade of blue, \$485, Saks Fifth Avenue/Galleria, Dallas, tops a buttery soft Ralph Lauren lamb leather skirt, \$1,498, Neiman Marcus/Ridgmar Mall, Fort Worth. Patent leather Sam Edelman Truman pumps feature brogue detailing with tassels, a stacked wooden heel and comfortable crepe sole, \$179.95, Nordstrom/North East Mall, Hurst. Catherine Page gold-dipped earrings, \$175, Stanley Eisenman Fine Shoes/Fort Worth; RB multi-strand quartz bracelet, \$245, Leddy's Ranch at Sundance/Fort Worth. Red Valentino cross-body sequin bag with leather bow converts to an oversize clutch, \$395, Saks Fifth Avenue.

the free spirit



THE DETAILS

Many thanks to Mike Micallef and the Micallef family for their generosity in allowing us to photograph on the grounds of their historic CF Ranch in Alpine; to Paula Cotton for her hospitality; to the Border Patrol agents who helped us change our flat tire; and to Patty Pressley for her invaluable assistance.

Model Melissa Brown,
Kim Dawson Agency

Hair and makeup Rey Medrano,
Kim Dawson Agency





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