

cool2wear

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STYLE FILE



High-fashion Crocs
Everybody loves Crocs, those clog-like shoes made of anti-microbial resin that feel comfortable and look quirkily cute in an array of bright colors. But mostly, you think of wearing them in the garden or just hanging around. For the warmer months, the company has fused form and function and is introducing a new style — the Sassari (\$39.99 at crocs.com) — that is sleek, retro-inspired and features an of-the-moment wedge heel. You can definitely pair them with a skirt or cute sundress. The shoe comes in six two-toned color combos, including black and white and brown and gold.
— ANNE BRATSKER

Iceland warmth
When temps hit nearly 60 earlier this spring and then it snowed — all in one day — even savvy shoppers scratched their heads. What to wear? One idea — look to Iceland, with its freaky geological mix of volcanoes, glaciers, geysers and hot springs. For 81 years,

Icelanders have enjoyed the sleek, functional outerwear of 66° North, named for the latitude line that cuts across the country. Their parkas, sweat-

wicking jackets and lightweight shells blend spare Nordic styling with fun pops of color. For spring, we like the Glymur Women's Softshell jacket, \$290 (pictured), with iPod pocket and Polartec Power Shield fabric. Select items available at Khanh Sports, East Hampton, or online at 66northus.com.
— JOSEPH V. AMODIO



THE PASHA OF PARIS



LETTING

Exhibition at the Met celebrates designer Paul Poiret's influence on modern fashion

BY ARIELLA BUDICK
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Paul Poiret earned the sobriquet "King of Fashion" on the eve of World War I, when he dominated Parisian haute couture with his deep, dreamy colors, his exotic allusions, and his loose, liberating silhouette.

Poiret is best known today as the man who freed women from the corset, allowing them to stride into the 20th century supported by the far more forgiving bra. More scandalously still, he introduced flesh-colored stockings, on the theory that the next best thing to bare legs was

the illusion of bare legs. The Metropolitan Museum of Art's current celebration of Poiret explores his radical innovations as well as his complex claim on modernity.

Known also as "the Pasha of Paris," he drew on Eastern cultures of all stripes for his ideas. Inspired by the exoticism of "Schéhérazade" as performed by Sergei Diaghilev's Ballet Russe, he appropriated harem wear into his repertoire: billowing pantaloons, glittering turbans, "lampshade" tunics. Snubbing

ed protocols of his time, he declared his clients' release from the conventions of the West.

Poiret's inclusive, eclectic outlook resonates today. "In a time of globalism and multiculturalism, his receptivity to non-Western clothing traditions is appealing to designers and consumers," says Valerie Steele, chief curator and director of the museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology.

She cites Proenza Schouler's kimono jackets and jewel-like colors as examples of

Poiret's ongoing influence. The designer Rick Owens, too, recently found inspiration for his furry mohair cocoon jackets in early cartoons satirizing

Poiret's female disciples as insects.

Thakoon, another designer lately impressed by Poiret, e-mailed to say that he was "drawn to the silhouette, the drop-waisted look, the slouchy coats, the layering. To me all these are very modern elements of dressing, but Poiret did it 100 years ago."

Beneath the vibrantly glowing silks and extravagant embroidery, Poiret detected a stark geometric clarity in Eastern costumes. He alternately favored the flat planes of the caftan and the kimono

NOW ONLINE

The stars were out for the Met's Costume Institute Gala. See a photo gallery.

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BEAUTY SPOT

Hair Rx

Who among us doesn't have some issue with our hair? Thankfully, the people who make hair care products are tuned in.

Celebrity stylist Frederic Fekkai's latest effort focuses on thinning hair, with a four-product line called MORE that is intended to create a

healthy, more energized scalp and make hair appear more dense. There's a scalp-purifying shampoo, a root-nourishing conditioner, a lightweight styling product and a follicle-booting treatment meant to be used at night. Prices range from \$24.50 to \$35, or you can buy all four products in a kit for \$100; they're available at



Sephora stores, sephora.com and Fekkai salons.

Next problem: botched color. If your dye job turns out to be a disaster, fix that with Color Oops, a new hair product that is said to wash out unwanted color in 20 minutes (\$12.99 at drug stores).

— BARBARA SCHULER