

# Stride Into 2013: Breaking the Platform Habit

Lynn Yaeger, Vogue, January 3rd 2013

**You've spent the last decade clomping, somehow managing to convince yourself that when you don your cherished platforms—so reliable, so comfy—you are, in your own way, sort of gliding. You are not.**

Amazonian footwear may have its virtues, but delicacy and grace are not among them. So you would think, then, that the news that thin-soled shoes with a quiet elegance fit for a sylph were wafting their way into wardrobes this season would be universally met with at least measured enthusiasm. But "no!" you declare, clinging ever more tightly to your clunkers as you galumph through life. Change is hard! To allay your fears and help you navigate these sole shoals, we've solicited advice from a roster of eminent shoe designers to encourage you to climb down from your plateau and embrace the incredible lightness of the thinner-soled shoe.

**Keep a Sense of Proportion** "Single soles have a daintier feel and enhance female curves in the legs and calf area," says Jimmy Choo creative director Sandra Choi. "Skinny pants, ankle lengths, or a sharp, slick silhouette could all be a part of the look." And Zoraide's Paola Bay thinks thinner-soled shoes are better proportioned for the female physique. "The platform tends to enlarge the lower end of our bodies," she says. **Learn to Walk the Walk** "I only make single-sole shoes," declares Manolo Blahnik. "They transform the way a woman walks: in heavy platforms like truck drivers, in my shoes like ballerinas." Choi admits that the promise of appearing taller may rest in the platform's camp, but this shortcoming can be overcome by developing the ability to stride gracefully (practise!) in whatever heel height—and sole—you choose.

**Never Underestimate the Power of Restrained Sex Ap-**

**peal** According to Bruno Frisoni, who designs his own line in addition to being the creative director of Roger Vivier, "There is something animal in the [single-sole] look—you feel the curve of the foot." **Bay states, frankly that "men really don't like platforms—they find them totally unsexy. For them, even a kitten heel would be better,"** while Choi believes the hottest look to be a thinner sole combined with a great high heel, which throws the arch of the foot outward. She urges courage: "Don't give in just because you miss the height and comfort!"

Consult the Historical Record Frisoni reminds us that more slender shoes can make you look like a cinematic heroine: "If you consider the stiletto," he says, "it's the perfect proportion. I think it makes you even more feminine, as in the fifties and sixties—Tippi Hedren with a wide, knee-length coat and a stiletto."

**Take a Deep Breath** "Going from a platform to a more refined single sole is just a matter of habit," reassures Sergio Rossi's Francesco Russo. Max Kibardin suggests that though it's fine to experiment with different styles in the evening, "the urban thin-soled shoes give women a more appropriate everyday look."

**If All Else Fails** If all of the above has still not convinced you, one designer dares to answer the unspoken question: Do my shoes make me look fat? According to Tabitha Simmons, "I feel that when your shoe is big and clunky, you can look a bit heavier."



# Family Style: Vanessa Traina's Intimate Wedding in San Francisco

-Mark Guiducci

I hope you asked my sisters about this, because they're part of the deal!" Vanessa Traina cheekily warned then boyfriend, Maxwell Snow, when he proposed in the bathtub last February. Photographer Snow had indeed gotten the blessing of not only Traina's four sisters but also her mother, Danielle Steel, whose home in Pacific Heights, San Francisco, the bride eventually chose as the location for her wedding. Event planner Stanlee Gatti transformed the front courtyard into a lavishly orchestrated setting for the couple to exchange vows under an arch of white dendrobium orchids.

Not to be outdone, Traina's wedding ensemble was a *tour-de-Givenchy*: a Riccardo Tisci dress based on one of the embroidered creations from his fall 2010 haute couture collection inspired by Frida Kahlo. "When we tried it on her, it fit like a glove. It was pure perfection," says Tisci, who also designed the Madonna veil and studded white satin-and-leather heels; the rings—a band engraved with the wedding date to accompany her black-and-rose gold engagement ring—were created by New York-based jeweler James de Givenchy, nephew of Hubert. "She was divine," Tisci adds. "A very modern bride."

"Everyone who came has been a friend of mine since I was about sixteen," Traina said of the 80 guests, including designers Alexander Wang (a former high school classmate), Joseph Altuzarra, and Jack McCollough and Lazaro Hernandez—the latter of whom may be the next to walk down the aisle if superstition holds true: The Proenza Schouler codesigner caught Traina's lily-of-the-valley bouquet.





