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ing for the Goldenbleu

Designer handbag label tries on shoes

Seen on the arms of celebrities Rachel Bilson, Cameron Diaz and Heidi Klum, **Goldenbleu** handbags will share the spotlight with women's and men's footwear for Resort/Spring '07. "I want to develop a lifestyle brand," says handbag-turned-shoe designer **Rene Huber**, creator of the high-end label Goldenbleu. As part of her plan to expand her brand, Huber has added leather jackets, sunglasses, belts and men's accessories to her collection of hobo bags, clutches and totes this fall. She also provided a sneak peek of things to come with the debut of two fall styles for women—wooden-wedge sandals and pillow-stitched, wedge boots.

The spring collection features 10 styles for women and five for men. "The look and feel of the collection does follow closely with my handbags," says Huber, who predicts her target audience will be made up mostly of people familiar with her handbags. "With the bags, it's very original and fresh and that is the feedback that I'm getting for the shoes. The shoes have a touch of vintage inspiration. They are comfortable and stylish at the same time." Styles include wedge sandals with black patent uppers; wedge-heel ankle boots in a white woven patent; and black patent wedges with a peep toe and ankle straps. Huber notes that many of the shoes incorporate a gold, circular grommet for brand recognition and the use of woven patents is used extensively throughout the collection. The shoes, which are designed and manufactured in Italy, will retail for \$150 to \$400.

"We may have a wedge, but it is a bit different the way the shoe or boot is incorporated to that bottom," says Huber, when asked what is unique about her line. "The shoes redefine what I think women and men would gravitate towards and pick up. I love the shape, the colors and the use of interesting patterns." Huber plans to add more men's and women's apparel to the Goldenbleu label. "Miniskirts, bathing suits—clothing will be a big part going forward." —Nicole Yee

All Dolled Up

Irregular Choice plays dress up with the cult classic Blythe Dolls

In collaboration with **Gina Garan**, the original designer of the Blythe Dolls, fashion dolls from the '70s known for their oversized heads, skinny bodies and huge changeable eyes,



Irregular Choice has introduced Blythe by Irregular Choice, a collection of nine funky styles incorporating images of the new Hasbro dolls, a modern take on the vintage collectibles.

"The dolls are just so iconic and irreverent, much like Irregular Choice," says **Danny Sullivan**, designer and founder of Irregular Choice in London. "Also, like our brand, they've attracted a cult following that comprises the same consumers as ours."

With styles that include a winter boot, a Mary Jane and a curved kitten-heel, Sullivan notes that the rich colors (inky blue, metallic gold, red and black) and bold prints have received an overwhelming reaction from both Blythe fans and people who had never heard of the dolls. Sullivan notes that Irregular Choice plans to continue its collaboration with Garan in the future. "It's been such a fun, creative project and my Blythe design ideas continue to flow freely," he says.

Highlights include the flat Mary Jane featuring a print of Superior Skate Date doll's face framed in a laser-cut heart shape, and ankle boots with a hidden platform and perforated tiny hearts and printed polka dots framing the face of Merry Skier. A thick red shoelace with an attached board-game dice runs up the front of the boot. The suggested retail price range for the line is \$140 to \$200. —N.Y.

picks ✓

In the clear



Pure Reflection
Emilio Pucci
vinyl and silver sandal.

Naturally Naked
Michael Kors wood pixel vinyl platform sandal.

See-Through Spectacle
Donna Karan metallic embellished plexi slide.

Transparent to a "T"
Kenzo plastic rope wedge sandal.