



Brazilian Beauty
 Carolina Pagano
 offers spontaneity
 and sensuality.

DESIGNER CAROLINA SADOWSKI'S inspiration for her shoe line Carolina Pagano lies in her love for her native Brazil. "I'm inspired by all of its fauna, the forests and the color of Brazilian precious stones," says Sadowski, who used her maternal grandmother's last name for her line. "It's really no surprise that the collection displays the colors and shapes of [Brazil's] culturally rich environment." In fact, her devotion to Brazil runs so deep that she always travels with her very own Brazilian roast coffee. "The smell of fresh coffee brings me good memories from home," she notes.

Launched in 2006, Carolina Pagano is aimed at sophisticated, contemporary women who Sadowski believes exhibit grace and a bit of flair. With a background in design and product management, Sadowski was drawn to footwear design when she realized the power shoes have in transforming a sartorial ensemble. "I liked the fact that a shoe can change an outfit even when you're wearing just jeans and a white T-shirt."

For spring, Sadowski's collection of flats and low- and high-heel shoes include eclectic shapes and unusual embellishments like bone beads and oversize buttons and contrasting insoles. Materials range from satin to calf leather to linen to



Clockwise from top left: Rampage flat slouch boot; Z by Sergio Zelter stiletto; brown suede wedge by Paris Hilton; heeled slouch boot by Nomad.

EDITOR'S PICKS

All in Knots
 The classic bow loosens
 up for fall.

suede. "The color palette is an intricate mix of earthy colors and jewel tones," says Sadowski, who lists colors like ruby red, pink, magenta, brown, camel, sand and gold.

Retailing for \$350 to \$495 for the Fall '09 collection, Carolina Pagano features pumps, flats, strappy and mid-platform sandals, as well as both tall and ankle boots in varying heel heights. Her carefully selected materials include python-embossed leather, patent leather, calf hair, calf leather and suede in a variety of hues including natural, leopard print, gold, coffee brown, hazelnut, terra cotta, black, deep blue and butterscotch. "I designed Fall '09 with a flash of gold-it's like jewelry for your feet," says Sadowski, who is always in search of the neJ>.hovely

embellishment. "I wanted to bring a shine throughout with details like bronze leather trims, gold buckles or something that makes a woman look down at her feet and smile, similar to the way you admire a beautiful piece of jewelry." Her favorite style from fall is a calf-hair, mid-heel pump with a rounded toe. The shoe has a zebra pattern and each stripe is hand-carved into the leather.

Sadowski does not concern herself with trends (she dislikes the gladiator style on high heels and faux leather) and instead focuses in on what would give her shoes a strong, unique personality. "My biggest challenge is finding a unique element that will tell a story throughout the entire collection." -Nicole Yee