

INTERNATIONAL URBANITE

From Art Deco to Etruscan tombs and casual chic to fusion fare, these eight cities thrive on fashion.

STOCKHOLM—The Stockholm look this spring is safari chic with a twist. Meet for lunch and shopping in fashionable Stureplan under Svampen, the concrete mushroom where well dressed Stockholmers rendezvous: think tight black stovepipe jeans tucked into Noki boots. Hunt down a table at Sturehof (Stureplan 2), a popular lunch spot with fresh Baltic seafood and a prime view of the passing Nordic parade. Then stop into Dis Inredning (Humlegårdsgatan 19), an oasis of modern Scandinavian home furnishings, and drop by J. Lindeberg (Grev Turegatan 9) to graze this brash, colorful designer's spring line of creative cargo pants and asymmetrical skirts. Next the pilgrimage to PK-Huset (Hamngatan 10) and NK (Hamngatan 18), Stockholm's designer department stores de rigueur, where the windows are showing cropped pants and peasant blouses with drawstring sleeves, the latter reminiscent of Latin America and the pioneers of the American West. If you're feeling particularly bold, stalk the big game along Biblioteksgatan, Stockholm's version of 5th Avenue, with obligatory calls at Mexx (Biblioteksg 16), Marc O'Polo (Biblioteksg 11) and InWear (Biblioteksg 1). Crown your afternoon with a cocktail at Sophie's (Biblioteksgatan 5), a lively bar and restaurant where the glitterati exchange their whos and whys, and the gents room enjoys a spectacular vantage of contemporary fashion. Ladies: beware the wall-length mirror in the hall leading to the women's bathroom: it's actually a two-way mirror giving men at the urinal a prime view. Return to your room at Bern's (Berzelii Park 9), a high concept hotel-restaurant-bar-café par excellence overhauled in 2001 by Terence Conran; drop your shopping bags upstairs and indulge in a meal of Asian and French cuisine fused with Swedish influences. Or for a taste of the local, head over to Prinsen (Mäster Samuelsgatan 4) for red wine and wallenbergare, the traditional meal of ground-veal meatcakes much prized by the writers and painters whose trophies hang from the stout wooden walls. **Geoffrey Coffey**