

Wallpaper*

NOVEMBER 2005

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Newspaper*

CHANGE AFOOT

Marloes ten Bhömer's experimentation with 'new shoe typologies' began when she was a child and slathered an old pair of her mother's shoes in papier-mâché to exaggerate their shape. Twenty years later, when looking for a way to create a shoe of varying thickness, the 26-year-old Dutch designer remembered her mother's heels and began to experiment. The result was a shoe made from leather-mâché, which was followed by forays into carbon fibre, untearable paper and shrink-wrapped leather, often producing shapes that better resemble architectural models than shoes.

Ten Bhömer's current line of custom handmade footwear, which she established after working on a shoe engineering project for Alexander McQueen in 2002, is an inspiring example of how to turn fantastical shapes into technically sound products. 'I'm interested in designing objects that ignore or challenge conventions in order to make the product-design world less generic,' says the London-based designer. 'I rethink what an object can look like or how it can function. There can be more to clothes.' In her efforts to change an object whose form has shifted only slightly over centuries, and in her wide-ranging investigations into unconventional materials, shapes and construction methods, Marloes ten Bhömer is a Hussein Chalayan for the extremities. *
www.marloestenhomer.com

HEEL TO PA
'Bluefoldedshoe' in
leather and stainless
steel, £1,450, by
Marloes ten Bhömer
Tights, £25, by Wolford
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'Fifty' chair, £130
by Tom Vaughan and
Will Smith of Object
Design, from
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