

## Hi-tops for high society

Swag kicks from major design labels are all the rage these days, says **Arthur Tam**. Photography by **Calvin Sit**

Looking for a pair of shoes to match that fine Italian-tailored suit? Why not toss away those brogues, Oxfords and loafers, and try out a pair of hi-top sneakers? Sneakers can be a classy complement to a formal gathering and, quite frankly, they're a more comfortable alternative, especially in a city like Hong Kong, where walking is essential.

Celebs like Kanye West, Kid Cudi, Mos Def and Justin Timberlake have long been pairing their sneakers with designer suits to major fashion events. Ever since the birth of Air Jordans, hi-top sneakers became cool. And every year now, New York hip-hop and street wear influences are making a stronger statement in the world of high fashion – and rightfully so. There is a type of disaffected, edgy and perhaps even ironic charm when you see someone pairing something luxury with something casual. It's a mismatched match that's fun, cool, hip and, of course, stylish. Major fashion houses have been picking up on this hype as we can see from Christian Dior, Balenciaga, Chanel, Saint Laurent and Lanvin adding their own luxury twist to trainers. This season, designer sneakers are bolder, more colourful and exude a sense of high society.

Here are a few selections that would go well with pair of fitted-dress slacks the next time you decide to have a glamorous night out.



Where to find the hottest pair of designer kicks this season

### 1 Raf Simons

Joyce Boutique, 2/F, Shop 232, Pacific Place, Admiralty, 2523 5944; joyce.com. \$7,400

### 2 Saint Laurent

Alexandra House, 7-15 Des Voeux Rd C, Central, 2868 0092; ysl.com. \$4,850

### 3 Maison Martin Margiela

IT, 6-10 Cleveland St, Causeway Bay, 2504 0025; ithk.com. \$5,199

### 4 Giuseppe Zanotti

Shop 2072-2073, IFC, 1 Finance St, Central, 2805 0890; giuseppezanottidesign.com. \$8,315

### 5 Yohji Yamamoto

Y-3, G/F, Wellington Plaza, 56-58, Wellington St, Central; y-3.com/hk. \$2,850

### 6 Lanvin

2/F, Shop 235, Pacific Place, Admiralty, 2523 9512; lanvin.com. \$7,200

### 7 Balenciaga

Lane Crawford, Harbour City, 3 Canton Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui, 2118 3428; lanecrawford.com. \$4,320