

Fashion trends and accents

New Year holidays inspire us to rethink our wardrobes, clearing out the old and musing on new fashions for spring and summer. What awaits us in the coming year? Belarusian fashion designers Olga Kucherenko-Laburdova and Olga Osipenko reveal all.

Retro styling remains all the rage

According to Olga Osipenko, 'Fall-Winter 2012-2013' is characterised by simplicity: an absence of unnecessary decoration and plenty of natural fibres such as wool. Retro style Scandinavian Nordic patterns are adorning our knitwear, much to her delight. She smiles, "I love those small geometric patterns, which seem to vibrate."

Capes and ponchos are back in fashion — warm, relaxed and comfy for country walks, especially when combined with knitwear sets. 1960s accents are also fashionable: plain fabrics that keep their shape and slightly flared trousers and skirts. Androgynous styling takes the form of tuxedos, shirts, ties and cufflinks rather than 'beggar tomboy'.

Olga Kucherenko-Laburdova tells us that vivid colours are on trend, as is pure white. White evening dresses are the major colour tendency this season. Bohemian

lace, satin and knitted dresses will be eye-catching at any event. Meanwhile, there will be many frills in the spring-summer clothes collections but fine leather will also remain a fashion must-have: suits, tops and skirts.

Fashion accessories to the fore

This winter, fur will dominate bags, shoes and hats, with 'art deco' styling popular. Hats with brims of all sizes will be on sale, as will hunter and Nordic style knitted caps with ear flaps — the perfect choice for frosty days.

'Spring-Summer 2013' shoes will dazzle us in rich shades of purple, orange, red, dark blue, yellow, blue, olive, pink, cornflower blue and in metallic tones. Those summer party feet will enter next winter in ankle boots with platforms or square heels, teamed with rich and original decoration.

By Lyudmila Minkina



New Year holidays are perfect occasion for updating wardrobe

Cultural capital moves to Mogilev from Nesvizh

Until late in the evening, Nesvizh's residents and guests listened to modern and ancient melodies performed by the Presidential Orchestra, the State Chamber Orchestra and folk groups

The final events in the town included exhibitions by famous painters and photographers, with Nesvizh then wistfully passing its title of Belarus' cultural capital to Mogilev for the coming year. The latter has also recently been named CIS' cultural capital.

Culture Minister Boris Svetlov attended the concert, noting that, in 2012, almost fifty projects involving museums, theatres and music have been realised in Nesvizh, drawing tourists from far and wide. "Among the brightest were the *Muses of Nesvizh* Festival of Arts, concerts featuring Yuri Bashmet Festival participants, the *Vladimir Spivakov Invites* Festival, the *Evenings of the Bolshoi Theatre at the Radziwills' Castle* Forum of Operatic and Ballet Art, and the *Theatre of Ursula Radziwill* Art Festival," he recalled. Other amazing events have included exhibitions showing items from London's Victoria and Albert Museum, from Vilnius' National Museum — The Palace of Grand Duchy of Lithuania Rulers, and from the National Art Museum.

This year also marked the 450th anniversary of Symon Budny's book being published in Nesvizh: the first Belarusian language edition on the territory of modern Belarus. Of course, the grandest event was the opening of restored Nesvizh Castle, which was visited by over 500,000 people. The town's historical centre is now on the UNESCO World Heritage List — promoting Nesvizh worldwide. Mogilev also has many attractions worth admiration, including its *Mighty God* and *Golden Hit* festivals, which are known abroad. Its City History Museum recently gained a rare book entitled *Prominent Art of Artillery*, by our countryman, Kazimir Semenovich — an early inventor of rocket science who lived three centuries ago.

Watercolour year arrives

Mogilev gains its own logo

Having been declared the cultural capital of Belarus and the CIS for 2013, Mogilev recently conducted an open competition to design a logo for the city, explains Irina Zhabarova, Deputy Head of the Cultural Department of the Mogilev City Executive Committee. She explains, "A watercolour entry by Mogilev resident Yekaterina Tabanyukhina was chosen, depicting the town hall against the rising sun. It indicates our desire to promote cultural development."

The logo has already been placed on the websites of the Mogilev City and Regional Executive Committees and appears periodically on the city's main public screen. It will feature on billboards and printed materials throughout 2013 and may even be retained beyond this year.

Singing to the rooftops

Final of international Competizione dell'Opera — among the world's top singing competitions — hosted by National Academic Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre as part of 2nd Minsk International Christmas Opera Forum



Belarus has hosted the contest for the first time, with the 12 finalists including local Anatoly Sivko and Ilya Silchukov.

They performed in Italian and English, singing songs both ancient and modern. The jury comprised the heads of the world's largest opera theatres, as well as prominent opera singers, and was chaired by the head of *Competizione dell'Opera*: famous German producer and theatre director from Bremen, Prof. Hans-Joachim Frey. Rakhim Mirzakamalov from Uzbekistan won the event, with second prize awarded to Ukrainian Darya Knyazeva. Ayuna Bazargurueva from Russia took third place. All received special prizes and offers of work with European opera theatres.

Museum Labyrinths hold variety of secrets

Visitors to the National Art Museum of Belarus have made their own contribution, thanks to the interactive *Colour Has Its Soul, Disclosing Itself for the World, Love, Beauty and Infinity* — part of the *Museum Labyrinths* project. This synthesises two independent interactive projects: the cultural and educational programme *Colour Has Its Soul, Ready to Disclose Itself* — and a conceptual canvas by Belarusian painter Victor Tikhonov — *The World, Love, Beauty, Infinity...*

Victor Tikhonov's 2x3m canvas is installed in the museum lobby, in front of the entrance door, with brushes and paints laid out for anyone wishing to try their hand. He is confident that we all have an artistic side. Several hundred people from around the world and from all walks of life have already added their contributions to the masterpiece. The experiment allows visitors to explore how colours can be created, mixing shades like ancient alchemists to find their own unique palette.

The *Museum Labyrinths* project aims to promote museums and domestic culture, featuring a whole range of interactive activities and a quiz covering many of the city's museums: the Modern Fine Arts Gallery, the State Museum of Belarusian Literary History, the Yanka



Museum Labyrinths at the National Art Museum

Kupala State Literary Museum, the Yakub Kolas State Literary-Memorial Museum, the Petrus Brovka Literary Museum, the Belarusian State Museum of Great Patriotic War History, the Museum of Minsk City History and the State Museum of the History of Theatre and Musical

Culture. They can be visited in any order. Guides are on hand to help answer questions where needed and all those who complete the quiz correctly will win a three day trip to Vienna, including a visit to the Museum Quarter (Europe's largest museum and cultural complex).