



od sports

MEN'S FASHION SPRING 2007

Richard Gere

Revenge of the Nerds

As men show an increasing willingness to break the fashion mold, designers are turning classic faux pas into cool new looks. Some of the riskier propositions may not be for everyone, but who knows? Not that long ago, wearing jeans with a blazer was considered taboo. **ARMAND LIMNANDER**



Sandals With Socks

Visible Underpinnings

Sheer Shirts

Dress Shoes With Shorts

Leggings

This earthy combo was once the domain of Mendocino hippies and German tourists. Now **Prada** is taking a bite out of the granola market by pairing ultracausal slip-ons with superthick socks. The shock: it works, in a perversely professorial kind of way.

Frat boys, prisoners and Calvin Klein models have long been exposing the waistbands of their skivvies, but **Michael Bastian** (above) and Kim Jones are advocating long boxers that peek out of the bottom of shorts. At YSL, roomy pockets also extended below the hems.

Apparently, 'tis the season to flaunt. **Ann Demeulemeester** (above) and Deryck Walker subverted dress shirts by making them translucent. The see-through vibe makes more sense at the beach, where nothing beats Calvin Klein Collection's sporty mesh tanks.

Not Bermuda shorts — short shorts. **Raf Simons's** trunks featured complicated wrappings, waistbands and pleats, paired with dark socks and oxfords. Will the nerdy archetype catch on? Thanks to global warming, it just might.

We're all for taking a chance, but **Calvin Klein's** man-tights are unlikely to make it to the mainstream. These are best suited for cyclists, kickboxing instructors and gender-bending club kids who find their Swedish jeans far too roomy.



NOW TICKING | BIG BEN FOR MEN

Time for a new watch? Dent — the British clockmaker famous for creating the Big Ben tower in London as well as timepieces for luminaries like King Edward VI and Charles Darwin — has a new line of watches for the common man. Frank Spurrell, the founder of Watch Magazine, and Twysden Moore, a London nightclub entrepreneur

and watch fetishist, acquired the label after assuring the original owner that they were not going to make tacky plastic alarm clocks. Expect instead a classic square-face ticker inspired by Big Ben and a round homage to an 1848 ship chronometer used by the Royal Navy in the world wars. Go to www.dentwatches.com. **JULIE EARLE-LEVINE**