

TRENDWATCH

Mr. Hide

Get some skin in the game. Top menswear designers like **Hermès** and **Calvin Klein** dressed up their fall collections with lookie-here exotic skins. From crocodile bomber jackets to bumpy-cool ostrich boots, tactile skin is *in*. And, this being Texas, expect snakeskin to add bite to any ensemble. “Exotic skins are luxurious and dramatic,” says Jason C. Maida, owner of Maida’s, who surmises the allure might be downright primal. “Historically, it’s a sign of strength to hunt these large, dangerous animals, and that still holds true today.” —*Holly Crawford*



1. Alligator wallet, \$240, at Maida's, 5727 Westheimer Rd., 713.629.9091 2. Ostrich briefcase, \$3,800, at Maida's, 5727 Westheimer Rd., 713.629.9091 3. Ulysse Nardin crocodile strap watch, \$21,800, at Zadok Jewelers, 1749 Post Oak Blvd., 713.960.8950 4. Magnanni crocodile shoe in brown, \$845, available at M Penner, 1180 Uptown Park Blvd., 713.527.8200 5. Hermès crocodile jacket, \$73,500, available at Hermès, 1800 Post Oak Blvd., 713.623.2177



Robert Talbott silk ties at Harold's

THE BUZZ

Tie One On, Shoe Off!

Fall for something this season at H-Town's hottest boutiques and newest shops. ... **Festari for Men** (1800 Post Oak Blvd., 713.626.1234) now has new lightweight leather jackets by Torras of Spain, starting at \$1,195. This month, chic guy's boutique **Mortar** (1911 Westheimer Rd., 713.529.0009) begins carrying super-slim leather jackets from hip San Francisco-based fashion line Nice Collective ... **Harold's** (350 W. 19th St., 713.864.2647) welcomes Sand, a new slim-cut Danish line of men's clothing; Canali's new Black Diamond scent; Gravati suede shoes and Robert Talbott and Dolce Punta silk ties. ... **Neiman Marcus** is the place to get a whiff of **Midnight In Paris**, \$115, the new **Van Cleef & Arpels** cologne for men spiked with bergamot, black lily of the valley and leather. ... Part of River Oaks Shopping Center's makeover, vintage-feel **V's Barbershop** (2040 W. Gray St., 713.527.4442) has settled near Barnes & Noble, offering hot-lather shaves, shoe-shines and cuts. ... Nearby, a second **Define Body & Mind** (1945 W. Gray St., 713.780.7799) locale bowed last month, with three LEED-certified studios for exercise classes and retail space for workout clothes, candles, accessories. ... For breast cancer awareness month, **Saks Fifth Avenue** will sell limited-edition T-shirts on Oct. 21-24 designed by **Donna Karan** to raise money for breast cancer charities. —*HC*

The Razor's Edge

Surprising as it sounds, a federal lobbyist and a wooden-pallet biz-owner are the beauty brains behind new **J. Paul Skin Care for Men**, which debuted at **Norton Ditto** (2525 W. Alabama St., 713.688.9800) this summer and is also available at **Longoria Collection** (1101-02 Uptown Park Blvd., 713.621.4241) and **Festari for Men** (1712 Post Oak Blvd., 713.626.1234). H-Towners and childhood pals Paul Looney and Paul Strong, both 42, launched the five-piece, Laura Mercier-backed line after Looney ran out of shaving cream on a trip. “I used hair conditioner instead,” he says of the skin-soothing change. So the UT-grad Looney and A&M-grad Strong created the \$24 Glide Shave Cream with aloe and glycerin. “We get the snicker factor from friends on the golf course, but they come back saying it's the best stuff they've ever tried.” —*HC*



Paul Strong and Paul Looney at Longoria Collection