

10 spring trends



With the green shoots of spring just around the corner, we ask 10 experts what they think you'll be knitting this season

Photograph: Penny Wincer



Debbie Bliss

1 HEARTS & FLOWERS

Romance is going to be a strong theme this spring, and so I am launching a new yarn called Angel to cater for this style. A blend of superfine kid mohair and silk, it's perfect for the lacy capelets, shawls and shrugs that we are about to see everywhere! I've chosen a palette of warm pastels such as coral and deep pink. The other big story of the season will be floral motifs; see my *Spring Magazine* for a fashion feature with a flower theme! I also predict peplums being a strong look, and you'll find plenty of sorbet shades with a touch of citrus in the mix to add some spring zing.

Debbie Bliss' latest pattern collections capture the romantic tone of spring 2011



Bright is back! Try these colourful yarns from Biggan Designs



Dorothy Wood

2 RETRO REVIVAL

Knitting has been so big for the winter this year, and that is bound to continue through the whole of next year at least. The traditional techniques such as Fair Isle and chunky cables have given knitwear, particularly men's garments, a real fashion edge, and so I think this trend will continue into spring and summer with the wool yarns giving way to cotton, linen and silk mixes. Home knitters will have been inspired by the textural stitches used in winter garments and take this through into their designing for the spring. I'm also sure that the grey look is well behind us and we'll be knitting in bright, but quite retro colours, to suit the 70s revival.

3 We'll all go girlie



Sarah Flatten

I think the handmade craft trend will continue to grow this year, and this is why I am bringing out both an app and book to help those new to knitting. I think looking at a knitting pattern to a non-knitter is like trying to read another language, so I have made the patterns without abbreviations, and on the app there are videos showing you every step. On a purely hand knitting front I think the soft, feminine look will continue to be important – in particular lace knitting, or maybe its just that I like knitting lace!

Find feminine lace patterns, like this, in Rowan Magazine 47

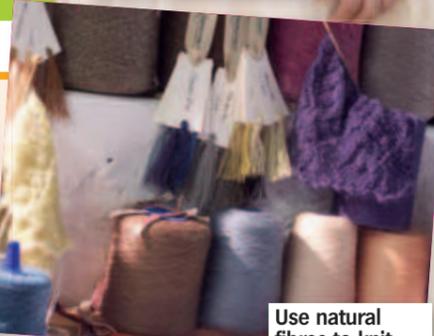


Di Gilpin

5 NATURAL KNITTING

For my spring collections I have concentrated on natural fibres, linens, cottons and very fine pure Wensleydale. A main consideration will be yarn combining and pattern combining: mixing fibres and textured knit with ribbon embellishments, taking traditional stitches and giving them a new twist. I am really keen on using fibres with a low carbon footprint, from locally-sourced flocks, natural dyes or pure natural colour and I am co-developing a new range of exclusive, luxury yarn, that embodies these ideas. Look out for The Humble Knitting Co launching in spring 2011.

Use natural fibres to knit new twists into old patterns



Try self-patterning yarns like Sirdar Summer Stripes



Aneeta Patel

4 SOMETHING DIFFERENT

I think 2011 is all about taking our style decisions into our own hands. As a knitting teacher, what I'm hearing again and again in my classes from my students is that they want 'something different'. By this they are picking up on one of my pet themes of individuality and the power that knitting (and sewing) gives you to create something completely unique. I think that in 2011, knitters will be much braver about adapting patterns to make them totally their own. Whether they lengthen a jumper, shorten a sleeve or knit everything in self-patterning yarn, there are so many ways for all levels of knitters to adapt patterns to suit them!



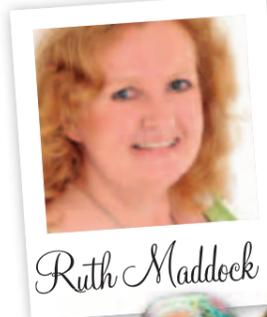
Sasha Kagan

6 BACK TO CLASSICS

Spring 2011 will be harking back to times gone by, and my new book *The Classic Collection* captures the essence of this trend. It contains a collection of my knitted designs spanning four decades from 1969 to 2009. Hand in hand with the book is my retrospective exhibition 'My life in textiles: four decades of classic knitwear design' so people can see these fashions coming back around for themselves.



Rediscover old fashions that have stood the test of time



Ruth Maddock

7 SOFT & GENTLE

I'm working on a look that is inspired by Dolce and Gabbana. For spring/summer 2011 they seem to have cut up their grannies' tablecloths, creating a collection that combines nostalgia with softness and quality.

I love mixing both knit and crochet, working them together to produce garments with a slightly vintage faded look. I will combine lingerie styling with floral themes, fringes and folklore, playing up eco friendly and handmade themes. Spring will be time to break out the skinny knitting needles and the crochet hooks to create this look. The colours I choose will be geranium, sky, blush pink, aqua and slate grey.



Rex features

Rex features



Marie Parry

Ruth loves the new, nostalgic designs that are about to hit the shops

10 DRESS TO IMPRESS

Spring 2011 marks a return to nostalgia and we'll see romantic, gentle and beautiful colours, styles and textures. Fringes will replace the ruffles that have been so big this winter, and delicate lace knits mark a return to glamour. Ponchos, capes and capelets promise to be a big story, with beautiful yet comfortable setting the tone of this season.

We'll be knitting with luxury yarns like cashmere and super-fine wools in gorgeous pastel shades to create perfectly pretty knits that will stand the test of time.



Rex features

Add a fringe to your knitting and be on-trend this spring

8 & 9

Bold & beautiful



Brandon Mably



Kaffe Fassett



Kaffe and Brandon will be working bold American Indian themes this spring

This spring, Kaffe and I are working on a knit book that's all about playing with different scale to a selected pattern. For instance, Kaffe would knit a zigzag pattern, then I would knit a version in a different colourway and weight of yarn to get a different look on scale and pattern. We have had so much fun doing this, totally surprising one another – now we have photography, which is another creative process, styling and arranging the shots.

Rather than following fashion, Kaffe and I tend to work with what we feel speaks to us instinctively. We've just visited the Anthropology Museum in Vancouver on a recent workshop tour, and now my mind is like a popcorn machine with ideas from the graphic bold American Indian wood carvings and structures. So I'm itching to play with big bold contrasting pattern. As we design on the needles, not on paper or a computer, the way we work is very instinctive – not a process, which makes it so much more exciting.

Kaffe has just finished working on a book for Regia using his gorgeous hand dyed effect yarn and sock yarn. In the past Rowan has produced sample patterns, but now Kaffe has turned his attention to playing with the yarns as he likes to see them used and they are really beautiful! The book will have patterns for all ages, male/female, from sweaters to accessories. Look out for this one in discerning shops.