

Buckle up

The Wallpaper* and Alberto Guardiani collaboration has a new collection under its belt

PHOTOGRAPHY: PAUL ZAK

Wallpaper* first teamed up with Italian shoemaker Alberto Guardiani earlier this year, marking the 30th anniversary of the brand's fine menswear range with our very own capsule footwear collection. London-based bespoke tailor, Thom Sweeney, came on board as a design consultant, creating pieces that combined traditional shoemaking values with the modernity of Schoeller water-repellent materials.

Previewed here, the latest spring/summer 2013 collection continues on the same theme, with loafers and lace-ups in new tone-on-tone colours. Taking it to the next level, we've also commissioned the Swiss Atelier XJC, founded in 2001 by Xavier Perrenoud, to design a belt and buckle. XJC's extensive portfolio of work in the jewellery and watch industry made the studio an ideal choice to create a visually appealing and mechanically sensitive belt buckle.

XJC developed a design that referenced the distinctive Alberto Guardiani corporate

identity, integrating materials used in the shoe production process – leather uppers and wooden heels – with a modern, brushed steel structure.

'The shape of the buckle came from the logo,' says Perrenoud. 'To be extra subtle we used the logo in profile, accented with wood veneer.'

Such attention to detail was appreciated by the Guardiani creative team. Founded in 1947 by cousins Luigi and Dino Guardiani, Alberto Guardiani launched his eponymous brand and first men's shoe collection in 1981. Renowned for its perfect balance of traditional manufacturing and classic lines, with contemporary styling and innovative materials, Alberto Guardiani now has boutiques all over the world.

The Alberto Guardiani Wallpaper* collection was launched at Florence's Pitti Uomo trade fair in July and will be available at stores worldwide, including Colette in Paris, Selfridges in London and online at www.thecorner.com and www.albertoguardiani.com.



SPRING/SUMMER 2012

The first collection by Alberto Guardiani and Wallpaper* included two designs – a lace-up (left) and a suede/canvas loafer, each available in green, blue or black. The lace-ups in blue and black and the green loafers will be carried over into Spring/Summer 2013

SPRING/SUMMER 2013

The latest collection continues to develop the initial theme, including two new tone-on-tone loafers, one in black calfskin and black Schoeller material, the other in mixed blue/black fabric; Chelsea boots in blue suede/canvas; and lace-ups in brown/tan

THE BELT

Taking the collaboration a step further, Atelier XJC has designed a belt for the latest collection, with discreet reference to the Alberto Gardiani brand in the subtle logo on the buckle

