

ONLY NATURAL

STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION

REFRAMED SPECTATOR

*A modern high heel rooted in
traditional craft and natural materials.*



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PROJECT SUMMARY

Reframed Spectator is a handcrafted high heel that reinterprets the language of a classic spectator shoe through natural materials and traditional craft.

The design combines the structured detailing of menswear footwear with a more expressive, contemporary silhouette. Rather than treating masculine and feminine design codes as fixed opposites, the shoe brings them together in one fluid object.

Made from oil-tanned leather, vegetable-tanned leather, waxed linen thread and a hand-shaped beech wood heel, the project places material integrity, durability and craft at the centre of the design.



WHAT IS IT ?

A handcrafted spectator-style high heel



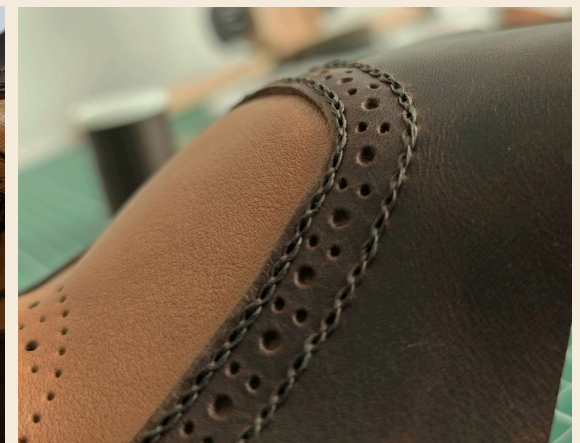
MATERIAL FOCUS

Leather, waxed linen thread and hand-shaped beech wood



APPROACH

Traditional craft reimagined through a contemporary silhouette



REINTERPRETING TRADITION

Reframed Spectator begins with the language of the classic spectator shoe, a style rooted in menswear, brogue detailing, two-tone contrast and the sharp elegance of 1920s and 1930s footwear.

Although the spectator shoe later entered women's fashion through menswear-inspired styles, it still carries a strong connection to classic masculine footwear codes. The high heel introduces a different code: height, expression and a silhouette now more commonly associated with femininity.

By bringing these elements together, the design questions fixed ideas of masculine and feminine footwear codes. It does not treat these codes as opposites, but combines them into one object where structure, elegance, craft and playfulness can exist together.

The design respects tradition, but does not remain trapped by it.



SPECTATOR

Classic menswear codes: structure, brogue detailing, two-tone contrast and the sharp elegance of 1920s and 1930s styling.



HIGH HEEL

Height, elegance, expression and a silhouette now closely connected to femininity and contemporary fashion.



REFRAMED

Traditional footwear codes reshaped through natural materials, craft and a contemporary, fluid silhouette.

CODES OF FOOTWEAR

SPECTATOR



BESPOKE CRAFT



HIGH HEEL



HISTORICAL HEELS



WOODEN LASTS



NATURAL LEATHER



NATURAL MATERIALS

Oil-tanned leather and vegetable-tanned leather are used for their durability, flexibility and ability to develop a natural patina over time. Instead of hiding use, the material is allowed to age and gain depth through wear.

The Norwegian seams are saddle stitched with waxed linen thread, reinforcing the connection to traditional hand construction and natural fibre-based making.

Beech wood was chosen as a reference to traditional wooden shoe lasts. By shaping the heel from the same material language used to form shoes, the heel becomes both a structural element and a reference to shoemaking itself.



LEATHER

Durable natural material with depth and ageing potential



WAXED LINEN THREAD

Natural fibre used for Norwegian saddle stitch



BEECH WOOD

A structural heel material referencing traditional shoe lasts



HAND-SHAPED VEG TAN HEEL LIFTS
& BEECH WOOD BASE



OIL TANNED LEATHER



VEGETABLE TANNED LEATHER



WAXED LINEN THREAD

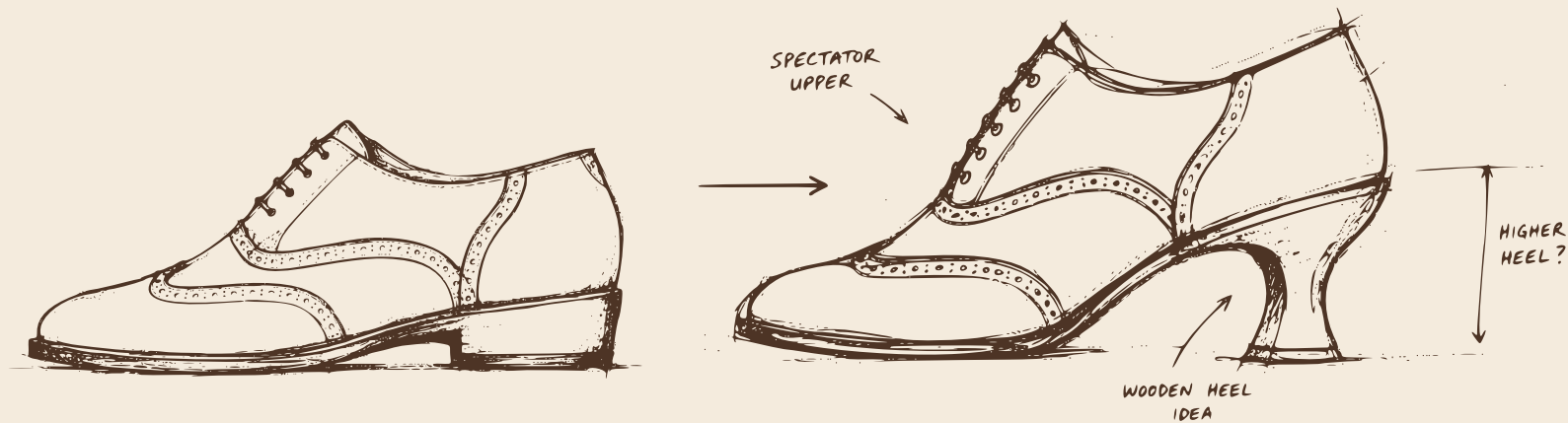


VEG TAN GOATSKIN LINING

FROM SPECTAOR TO HEEL

The design develops from the formal language of a classic spectator shoe into a more sculptural and expressive high-heeled silhouette.

Traditional upper proportions are reworked through sharper curves, a lifted stance and a carved wooden heel element, transforming a familiar menswear reference into a more fluid and contemporary form.



A classic Spectator design is sketched directly onto a men's high heel last



A traditional heel lift made of stacked veg tan leather is shaped accordingly to the curve of the heel



The heel lift and wooden heel are connected and further shaped into a structural base

100 % HANDMADE CONSTRUCTION

The shoe is constructed through hand-cut components, hand-sewn seams and a sculpted veg tan leather & beech wood heel.

Traditional techniques are used not only as a method of making, but as an essential part of the design language.

No sewing machine or powered machinery was used in the cutting, stitching, shaping or assembly process.



TECHNICAL DETAILS



FINAL PROPOSAL

This project combines natural materials, traditional hand construction and a fluid contemporary silhouette.

The result is a durable, expressive shoe that connects heritage craft with a more open and playful future of footwear

