

By Jenn Bussell

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Capitol Hill goes classic with a pop of color for Spring

With District temperatures now hovering in the 70s the one thing on every woman's mind is open-toed shoes. This season's footwear trends show Gladiator sandals still going strong, while the Espadrille and Clog of yesteryear make a grand return with modern updates. Beige and other neutral-toned stilettos, many with a platform, were a runway favorite for Spring/Summer 2010 as they give legs that mile-long look. For the more comfort conscious, the Wedge is back. Whether you're seeking the ultimate commuter sandal to get you to and from work in style, or a strappy sandal to dance the night away blister-free, wedge sandals with cork heels like these "Basil" slides from UGG® Australia which retail for \$100 [insert photo] are a great choice for happy feet.

While getting my own feet flip-flop ready at Eastern Market Nails, I was curious how Capitol Hill fashionistas plan to show off their pedis this spring. For work, the go-to shoe is the peep-toe with a moderate heel like the "Shelley" pump from Bandalino [insert photo] available on Zappos for \$58.95. "I just ordered four pairs of peep-toes in gold, red crocodile, black patent and nude camel," stated Michelle, a DC lobbyist who calls the Hill home.

Kate, who works in fundraising and development for a local non-profit, is also a fan of the peep-toe with a slightly lower heel. "I like bright pink for a pop of color," Kate said. These coral A. Testoni peep-toes with a low wedge heel (\$261.80 on Zappos) are a chic option to wake up basic black or khaki [insert photo].

Are you in search of an all-purpose sandal to take you from the boardroom to the boardwalk? Thong sandals in metallic and patent leather are a must-have for gals on the Hill. "I just bought a pair of Tory Burch patent thongs on sale," commented Ashley, who works for the Department of Justice. For nights out, Ashley added that she likes a wedge sandal, preferably cork-heeled.

Jeanie, a Boston University grad, is a longtime fan of Jack Rogers' Navajo thong. While Jeanie leans toward the Navajo flats, this classic sandal also comes in platforms, heels, low and high wedges as seen here with the Navajo "Hamptons." [insert photo]. Visit jackrogersusa.com to view more styles and prices.

Regardless of your lifestyle, be it Capitol Hill staffer or mom-on-the-go, there's a spring shoe that works for you. Happy shopping.