

# W

AT-HOME  
SPECIAL  
LIVING LARGE  
IN MALIBU,  
PARIS AND  
SCOTLAND

Hollywood's  
New Favorite  
Mexican Getaway

The Fatted Calf:  
When You Can't  
Fit Into the  
Season's Boots

Plus: Jean Paul Gaultier,  
Carolyn Roehm, the  
College Coed With  
The \$10 Million Condo  
& the Woman the  
Whole Art World Is  
Talking About

## Janet Jackson

She's slimmed down and fallen in love, but can she get her rhythm back?



## A Leg Up

Too big to zip up boots...too thin to fill them out. Is there any cure for calf woes?

Though I hurried out of the boutique in embarrassment, I later discovered that I was far from alone in my affliction. When I related the story at a staff meeting, well more than half the women in the room chimed in with similar tales. Carlos Mesquita, owner and manager of fashionista favorite Shoe Service Plus in Manhattan, sees the problem all the time. "They come in very nervous," he says of the clients who flock to his shop to have their too-slim Manolo Blahnik and Jimmy Choo knee-highs stretched. "They say, 'The boots do not fit me; they're too tight. If you can't do it, it'll cost me \$1,200 or \$1,600.' I have three guys working full time on boots."

Believe it or not, Mesquita says he takes in almost as many pairs as he stretches. Some women's calves, it seems, are just too thin to fill out boots, and this season, footwear won't be the only challenge for those on both ends of the spectrum. After years of forgiving boot-cut pants, suddenly calf-conscious styles like leggings and tapered jeans are everywhere, leading some to seek drastic measures. New York plastic surgeon Gerald Imber says he's had a number of requests for calf-reduction surgery, though he has never performed such a procedure. According to Imber, it's muscle, not fat, that's getting in the way of boot zippers, and the size of those muscles is primarily determined by genetics. "There's not much fat coverage on the muscle, which makes it difficult to operate," he says. "You'd have one hell of a scar."