

Hot Chocolate

[Laura Finkelstein]

BROWN HASN'T ALWAYS BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY FASHION, BUT THIS SEASON IT'S COMING OUT OF ITS SHELL IN a variety of shades, shapes, and stones.

To what does fashion attribute its appeal? For one, brown has the dark, basic, match-with-anything quality that has made black such a favorite over the years. In addition, its warm tones invoke increasingly trendy natural elements (earth, trees, nonhigh-lighted hair) and make it a cozy winter and a sexy summer color. Adding to its appeal is the fabulous way the warm tone works with yellow gold (which remains the favorite metal for fashion jewelry). A multitude of fresh designs featuring brown gems and pearls offer looks that range from romantic and feminine to bohemian and flashy.

All we can say is: Watch out, black!

- [1] Tahitian chocolate pearls with yellow beryl and diamond pendant. **ERICA COURTNEY**, Los Angeles; (323) 938-2373; www.ericacourtney.com.
- [2] Nature-motif ring in 18k gold with twisted wire bezel and cinnamon druse. **DENISE WOOD DESIGNS**, Darien, Conn.; (203) 655-0523; www.denisewooddesigns.com.
- [3] Princess earrings with white gold and zircon. **ERICH ZIMMERMANN**, Augsburg, Germany; (49-821) 515195; www.erich-zimmermann.com.
- [4] Barnacle Pendant in 14k yellow gold with tiger's-eye. **MANON VON GERKAN**, New York; (212) 334-3325; www.manon.net.

