

46 PERFORMANCES MAGAZINE

## **SHOPPING**



# ARCHITECTURAL ACCESSORIES

# MARMOL RADZINER JEWELRY

THE PROMINENT WESTSIDE architectural firm Marmol Radziner specializes in highend retail environments. It boasts an impressive portfolio of luxury residences filled with clean-lined modernist expressions, produces distinctive furniture and has entered the turbulent waters of the fashion world with Marmol Radziner Jewelry.

When Ron Radziner, one of the firm's principals, searched unsuccessfully for men's jewelry that conveyed both strength and minimalism, he designed himself a cuff. Radziner's wife, Robin Cottle, and other colleagues contributed design concepts and an entire line of jewelry emerged.

"I love that our jewelry line is an extension of Marmol Radziner architecture, embracing the close relationship between industrial materials and their natural environment," says Cottle, now the chief jewelry designer for the brand.

She notes similarities in the way we are affected by the design of buildings, furniture and jewelry, regardless of scale: "It's how a beautiful bronze staircase railing draws our eye, or how a bronze

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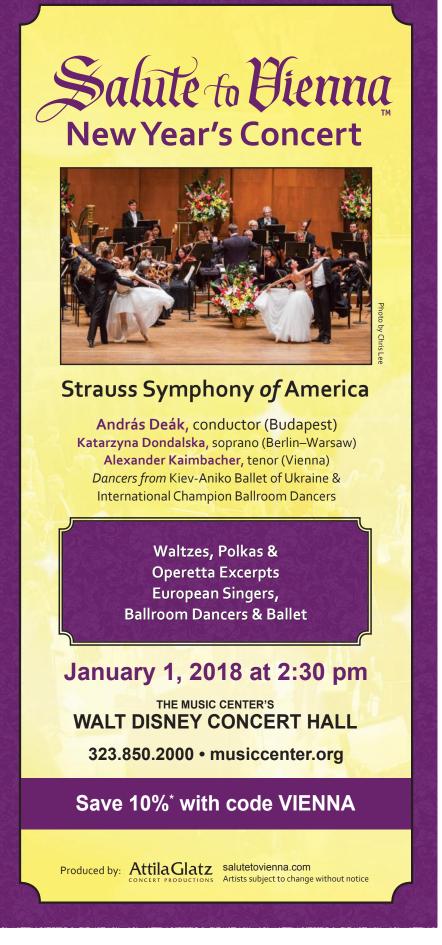
 The Marmol Radziner Stone Collection

lighting fixture catches the light, just like a pair of earrings adds that extra sparkle."

Truly sculptural is the double-tapered ring (\$190), a minimalist expression in shades of brass. A heavyweight double-wide brass ring (\$175) is a fraction of an inch short of a full circuit, sexy in the same way a slight space between two front teeth can be: a dark, distressed finish on a wide cuff provides a leatherlike patina balanced against bright gold-toned ends. Much of the collection features polished metal surfaces that aren't overly showy but still attract attention.

Cottle notes that the sculptural, architectural qualities of the jewelry line are inherent in the industrial materials utilized. "Our challenge is to take these materials and make them wearable, ultimately ending up with the pure forms that match Marmol Radziner's aesthetic," the designer says. She and her colleagues favor brass, bronze and white brass for their solidity, as opposed to porous metals like gold and silver.

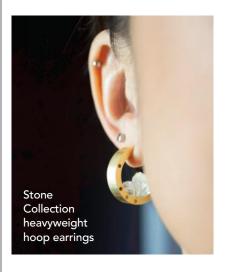
A bar pendant (starting at \$300) features a small perforated monolith, available in light, dark or gold-plated brass,



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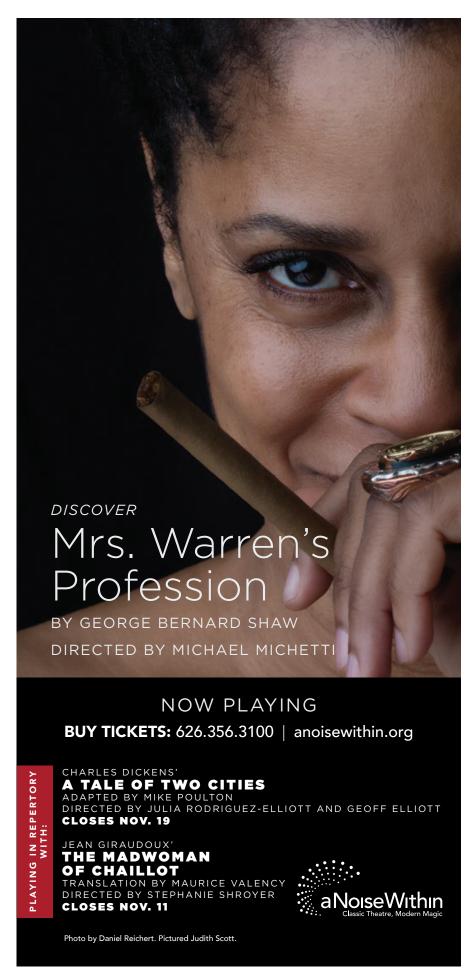
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that hangs vertically from a suede cord, the very essence of industrial minimalism transformed into an elegant accessory. Circular or elliptical bangles of various widths and finishes can be worn separately, but they are particularly attractive when bunched together. A thin dark brass cuff (\$295) is lined with camel-hued suede, both for comfort and color contrast.

The new Stone Collection came about when Cottle placed a small shard of broken mirror on a Marmol Radziner ring. "I saw the beauty of the clean lines of the metal contrasting with the broken, raw edges of the glass fragment," she recalls. This series pairs the firm's signature sculptural aesthetics with organic bling. The glitzy applications, a departure for Marmol Radziner, are created with semiprecious crystals that have not been overprocessed.



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"The jeweled pieces celebrate the relationship between the craggy, organic qualities of the raw, uncut stone and the linear, machine-aesthetic of the metal band," Cottle says. "To me, beauty lies in the juxtaposition between these opposing aesthetics."

An elegant 3/4-inch brass cuff embellished with a chunk of shiny, rugged pyrite (\$1,000) makes as strong an impression as precious diamonds. Other stones showcased in the collection include translucent pink topaz, amethyst, citrine, and rutilated quartz, as well as opaque materials such as turquoise and chrysocolla. As beautiful as it is unconventional, the J ring (\$600) consists of a solid brass J-shaped ring that would fall off the finger were it not for a dark blue Tahitian pearl affixed to the upper part of the J. Matching hoop earrings are available (\$900).

"Marmol Radziner customers have a sense of style that is cutting-edge, modern and minimal," Cottle says. "They tend to love art, fashion, film, design and, of course, architecture."

—Joseph LeMoyne

Marmol Radziner Jewelry marmolradzinerjewelry.com

Also available at select boutiques and museum shops.

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