

Fashion



Hi End

Talk about weighty matters; this ring is a substantial piece. The combination of gold and silver and the intricacy of the design and craftsmanship add to the richness of the smoky quartz. The rest of what you're wearing hardly matters. Own the room.

■ **Konstantino Sioulas** smoky quartz ring, \$755, Neiman Marcus



Lo End

Here, the cushion-cut smoky quartz gets a sprinkle of glitter in the form of diamond accents. The horizontal setting adds to the oomph of the ring and showcases the rich chocolate color. Tell them not to stare — at under \$100, they can get their own.

■ **Smoky Quartz and Diamond** ring, \$99.99, at SmartBargains.com

BEAUTY BRIEFS

Chocolate therapy

Not just for dessert anymore, chocolate can be found in all varieties at your friendly neighborhood makeup counter. As we approach fall, check out these chocolate-hued products:

■ **Estee Lauder** has Dark Chocolate's luxuriousness in their Pure Color Nail Lacquer. Long-lasting and super shiny, it almost looks wet. (Bloomingdales, \$18)

■ Scented with lavender oil, Bare Escentuals Natural Lip Color in Chocolate Souffle uses no artificial dyes or preservatives. They promise a moisturizing formula to keep lips hydrated. (Sephora, \$15)

— LAURIE GAIL

Laurie is the senior stylist and makeup artist for Candy Girl in Boston (candygirl@earthlink.net)

The no-cal splurge

For a calorie-free lunch time splurge, head down to Violet Skin Boutique, 257 Newbury Street. In 30 minutes your skin can be treated to a Chocolate Lift Mini Facial (\$55). "Our Chocolate mask is hand made and all natural," says managing partner, Rosanna. "It is formulated with egg yolk which is rich in nutrients that can repair summer skin." If you have more time, indulge a little with a full facial (\$115) and add on the Chocolate Body Scrub treatment (\$75). Formulated with sea salt, this decadent scrub quickly eliminates rough patches. The chocolate mask and body scrub can also be purchased and brought home. — HOLLY JOHNSON

More at BostonNOW.com/go/bostonnow_fashion

Hot chocolate

BY RACHEL SOLAR
BostonNOW Fashion Editor

A friend of mine recently returned to Boston after a few years away. We had reams of crucial matters to catch up on — family, career, local politics. One of the first sentences out of her mouth? "I'm wearing brown."

For some black fashion stalwarts, those among us who consider black the new black, the old black, and the only black, my friend's admission was right up there with "I've taken up swinging." What? Why? Whoa.

But I've warmed to the idea. And so, apparently, has the rest of the fashion world. Jamie Yasko-Mangum, of Successful Style Image, Inc., says that "chocolate is a driving color for Fall/Winter."

Something about chocolate brown feels so rich and right. It pairs well with all the gorgeous jewel tones, with gold or silver, with jeans — even with our beloved black — yet it's more forgiving on skin, less harsh. Like replacing a task lamp with a flickering candle — subtle, romantic...and kind of hot.



Classic Clutch, \$216 (mynwstudio.com)



Apt. 9 outfit, at Kohl's

NON-PAT CHOCOLATE

■ At the Phillip de Palma day spa in Franklin, (508) 528-9800, you can experience Chocolate Sun (Felicity Huffman has), an organic faux glow that replaced the chemical smell of self-tanning with a chocolate aroma.

■ Ecco Bella's Organic Dark Chocolate Mask (\$24.95, Whole Foods) is intended to slough off the top layer of dead cells and nourish, leaving it soft and smooth. It can be slathered all over your body.

GO EXPLORING

Open Studios

For original fashion finds (like the chocolate clutch above) check out multiple designers' work at Open Studios this weekend at 46 Waltham Street in the South End. Explore great artists, designers and other creative businesses. They'll be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info, go to useaboston.com

Multifaceted designs

Jewelry designer Konstantino Sioulas has developed a cult following for hand-detailed and old-world craftsmanship techniques that imbue his pieces. It's no wonder that Oprah, Celine Dion and Keith Richards are among the celebrities who wear his pieces. This year, many of his sculptural jewels feature the rich brown of smoky quartz.

BostonNOW: How would you describe your design sensibility?

Konstantino Sioulas: I design from the soul; I don't think about it, it just comes to me. When I'm driving or I see some architecture or work of art. I take bits and pieces from life and re-create them in my jewelry."

BN: What is the appeal of your jewelry for celebrities?

KS: I design for passionate people. The celebrities I've met are deeply passionate.

BN: What is the appeal of chocolate brown in jewelry?

KS: It's rich, decadent and has a soothing and calmness to it. Another great thing is that it looks good on everyone.



(iStockPhoto)

the SHARP dressed man

BY RACHEL SOLAR

Nowadays personal technology is gorgeous — and comes in a range of colors. A couple ways to techsessorize your look with chocolate:

■ **Microsoft Zune:** The brown-hued Zune player has a "distinctive texture and double-shot color finish" that they say was inspired by the look and feel of textiles like flannel and suede. zune.net



■ **Verizon Chocolate Phone:** Oddly enough, the chocolate phone is black, not chocolate. But today there are a number of tasty iterations — the most chocolatey among them being the new cherry chocolate, a rich dark reddish brown. Verizonwireless.com

DREAM BIG

I didn't think I wanted anything more than actual chocolate, but now I do. Cole Haan has the richest assortment of chocolatey boots, bags, and outerwear, and these gorgeous boots go with everything and make me weak in the knees.

■ **Cole Haan** Scariletta boot, \$850, at Cole Haan (109 Newbury St.)

