



Brody Rice of Thomas Dailing Designs also won a first-place award for his 18k white and yellow gold pendant with fluorite and diamonds.

Association competition, for example, Dailing won "Best of Show" in both 1998 and 1999.

Keeping the tradition alive this year, Dailing and his two assistants entered the Midwest Jewelry Expo and, of six entries, took four firsts and one "Best of Show."

DESIGN DISCOVERY

A World of Discovery Leads to Design

From Kansas to Portland to Florence, Italy, Elizabeth Weinberg Gualtieri has traveled a long and storied road during her career as a fine jewelry designer.

Gualtieri and her husband, Jack, met at the University of Kansas when both were young, aspiring jewelers. Beginning their career in jewelry together, they worked part-time at a custom goldsmithing store while still students.

Prior to graduating with a degree in metalsmithing and jewelry, Elizabeth Gualtieri traveled to Florence, where she found the direction that would define her career in jewelry. Reading about the Etruscan process of granulation had been interesting; seeing

the actual pieces on display in a local museum changed her life.

The couple married in 1993 and moved to New Mexico, where they mastered the ancient craft of granulation practiced in Western Asia and produced by Etruscan goldsmiths in the eighth and ninth centuries B.C. In 1996, they established their home and their business, Zaffiro.

The couple's unique style blends the ancient granulation technique with their youthful and modern interpretations of decorative arts. In keeping with fashion's general movement toward the kind of quality associated with the past—



Earrings set with faceted blue spinel rounds and faceted grape garnet pears in granulated 22k gold with 18k gold. Suggested retail, \$2,770. Zaffiro, P.O. Box 86593, Portland, OR 97286; (503) 236-6735.



Necklace with six strands of round and faceted garnet with 22k gold beads and an adjustable granulated 22k gold clasp with 18k gold has a suggested retail price of \$2,440.



Zaffiro's "Lotus" ensemble includes a pendant set with a green tourmaline cabochon pear and rainbow moonstone cabochon ovals in granulated 22k gold with 18k gold, a necklace of 22k handwoven Roman-style chain with granulated gold endcaps, and earrings set with rainbow moonstone cabochon ovals in granulated 22k gold with 18k gold. Suggested retail prices are \$4,420, \$4,155, and \$1,250, respectively.

Ring with a black Tahitian pearl in granulated 22k gold and 18k gold has a suggested retail of \$3,110.



Ring with a rose-red trillion zircon featuring 22k gold and platinum granulation on 22k gold with 18k gold has a suggested retail price of \$1,815.



Ring with opalized wood in granulated 22k gold with 18k gold is \$1,420 suggested retail.

combined with a focus on modern design—their jewelry embodies the feel of the start of the 21st century.

Both Gualtieris are interested in arts from various cultures, and their jewelry reveals influences from many quarters—a Balinese temple spire, an ancient Persian manuscript, a hand-carved door.

The rich yellow of 22k gold characterizes the couple's work and fits perfectly with fashion's return this year to the warm and wealthy look of gold. Nevertheless, Zaffiro's new line, the "Meredith Collection," featuring 22k white gold granulation, keeps the company on the edge of fashion and innovation. ♦