

NEWSWIRE

Accolades

British retailer **Links of London** garnered some awards in 2005, including the U.K. Jewellery Brand of the Year award from *Retail Jeweller* magazine and Best Retail Website in the U.K. from New Media Age Publishing as part of its Effectiveness Awards.

In the design arena, Boston-based **James Kaya** was named JA New Designer of the Year and received the **Mort Abelson Award** from the American Jewelry Design Council during the 2005 JA New York Summer Show. Kaya's Eastern European-inspired craftsmanship was also honored this year by Rio Grande's Saul Bell Design Awards and the American Visions Awards for Platinum Distinctions.

Bench jewelers, too, share the spotlight, as winners of the First Annual Bench Jewelers Passion Award Design Competition, sponsored by Bench Media, are honored across a number of categories, including CAD Rendering and Finished Jewelry. Of 25 awards given, **Karen Olsen Ramsey**, Grass Valley, Calif., took home the grand prize, or Jewelers Choice Award, as well as taking First Place in the Finished Jewelry Division for Ladies Jewelry.



A winning piece, made by **Karen Olsen Ramsey**, Grass Valley, Calif., an award recipient in the First Annual Bench Jewelers Passion Award Design Competition