

LOVE THOSE LAYERS

THEY'RE THE PERFECT LOOK FOR WINTER

BY WENDY MILLER
THE CHRONICLE

With temperatures vacillating between bone-chilling mornings and sunny afternoons, it's hard to find one fashion look that will be comfortable all day. The solution is layers, said Scottsdale designer Joy Li.

"We endure cold mornings and warm days during the winter and run in and out of air-conditioned cars and offices during the summer. The concept of layering a camisole, jacket and slacks or skirt works very well here with our desert climate," said Li, who owns and operates Studio Joy Li with business partner Jean Bartolomei at The Mix in Scottsdale's trendy SouthBridge area.



Li has been designing fashion for more than 20 years, and earlier in her career, was a fit model for Liz Claiborne. She has designed for Claiborne, Carole Little and Guess.

Li's fall palette offers versatile slate grays along with jewel-toned colors inspired by the places life has taken her. Pieces include her straight "wear-anywhere" pants in colors mimicking her favorite cup of espresso, and plum-colored camisoles, a tribute to the wines from her favorite Italian vineyard. Her burgundy V-neck Tee celebrates the jade that she saw on a trip to China.

The line includes four groups that pay tribute to the iconic women of the 1940s and '50s: Jane (Fonda) is casual for after work and home; Brigitte (Bardot) is slick and sexy; Sophia (Loren) is sophisticated, while Audrey (Hepburn) is classic with a casual urban edge.

Each piece is designed with mixing and layering in mind for women in a wide range of ages.

"My partner and I are in our 40s and 50s and we love to dress well. We cater to women in their late 20s to their 60s, who can often wear the same items, just in different ways," said Li. "A woman in her 20s might take a jacket and wear it with bluejeans while a 50-year-old might pair that same jacket with a skirt or slacks."

Among the more popular items in her fall/holiday line are the camisoles with a built-in bra and her slick skiwear jackets. Prices range from \$80 to \$795.



Layers help women of all ages feel comfortable going between cold morning temperatures and midday sun, said fashion designer Joy Li, pictured left. Her fall/holiday line features colors that remind Li of places she has traveled, such as Italian espresso and slate.