

Jeweler Webster sparkles in Back Bay setting

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Photo by Christopher Evans

Boston women aren't known for bold jewelry choices, but Stephen Webster is bringing out their inner rock star one Back Bay belle at a time.

The British jeweler, known for his brave use of color and intricate metalwork, wooed an intrepid crowd Monday night at the home of Sharon and Frank Roop. Sharon Roop, who has been selling Webster's pieces at Neiman Marcus for the past decade, invited friends and clients to meet the man known for reinventing the cocktail ring and transforming fish scales and daggers into diamond artistry.

"There are a lot of people in Boston who don't want three-stone rings," Roop said. "We have a client base for this jewelry."

Count among them Corinne Ferguson, who spent a good part of the evening trying on baubles set out on the Roops' dining room table. Ferguson, who lives in Brookline, has several of Webster's pieces, including a pearl necklace with an enamel pendant and a custom-made red, white and blue ring she bought when the British native got her green card.

"His artistry is excellent," she said. "He's never shy to do something different."

Webster said Neiman Marcus' Boston store is his top-seller in the chain of 40-plus stores - a fact that stunned executives early on.

"I was one of the edgiest brands they carried," he said. His pieces range from a \$355 "Superstud" ring to a \$18,500 crystal cuff.

The early loyalty of Boston shoppers made such an impact on Webster that he visits regularly for appearances, and has adopted the Boys & Girls Club of Boston as one of two major charities he supports. Monday night's trunk show was billed as a "Friendraiser" for the Boys & Girls Club, and donors will see the 54-year-old return in the spring for the club's gala.

"Some clients have become good friends. We always support each other," he said. "I never take (my success) for granted."