

Strange Zénith

“Crystal possesses the same treasure trove of properties as mathematics as a whole. There is almost no other known substance about which so little is known. Which makes this unknown entity a free, open and infinite territory.”

Philippe Starck.

Because the high technology processes used to produce crystalware now enable us to explore the realms of the possible and impossible alike, Philippe Starck has created five new exceptional pieces, following on from his many collaborative projects for Baccarat.

Philippe Starck believes that there is no future without a past, so he has set out to take a fresh look at the mythical Zénith chandelier as a masterpiece crafted by the agility of the human hand and mind. The magic of the **Zénithal**, with its heightened dreamlike, visionary quality, is derived from the contrast between the 3D Baccarat chandelier and the marvellously wafer-thin 2D light panel. Showcased and magnified by this light panel, its many facets are set aflame, the twinkle of the crystal pendants mimicking the warm flicker of candlelight.

The **Zénith le samedi** is both abstract and functional, work of art and design object, encircled by a neon Möbius strip created by the *Ateliers de Feerick*. Like a graffiti artist's tag suspended in space, the light melds baroque grace with a techno-urban signature of modernity. The **Zénith sur la lagune**, designed in conjunction with glass artist Aristide Najean, goes for a consummately hybrid approach. The 24 lights chandelier, which is decorated with three heads in the effigy of the king of the forest, seals the coming together of Baccarat crystal and Murano glass. Mathematical equations and poetry, theory and practice become a one in this masterly, deeply oneiric piece.

The **Personne à la fenêtre wall light** is the ultimate, compelling tribute to the iconic Zénith chandelier, taking its classic crystal arm and turning it into a mini-chandelier by reflecting in a sheet mirror. A melange of make-believe, illusion and duality, the myth is reinvented, just like a Surrealist poem.

Philippe Starck once again revisits the timeless history of the iconic Harcourt glass, carrying on the tradition of the cult object by changing its uses and dimensions. From the wall fitting to the table lamp, from an empty Harcourt glass to a full one, its form may change but its destiny is, as ever, bolstered by its inherent wealth of possibilities. In the same vein, and following on from the *Our Fire* chandelier and *Hic!* hanging light fitting, the **Harcourt Marie-Louise** lamp and wall scone take up residence in this luminous landscape of infinite potential. Each of the designs, at the frontier of image and object, asserts itself far beyond its own reflection, like messengers and illustrations of life.