Champs-Élysées Fountains Bring a Crystal Wonderland to Paris

March 14, 2019

Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec unveiled their Swarovski crystal designs this week. The innovative fountains, seen in Paris by night, were a bit sad. Each fountain has a central bronze mast that supports the crystal elements, visible from the exterior. The designers collaborated closely with Swarovski, with whom they have worked before, on what was a very large project, a true icon of crystal designed to be shock resistant, water resistant, light resistant, and able to withstand extreme weather conditions. The most important factor is having a shared vision of the project, and it differs in interior and exterior which is pretty rare. Unlike the Paris fountains, the new Champs-Élysées fountains are not put in a confined space, they are open to the public and contribute to the Parisian landscape through an ever-changing display of urban poetry. Depending on the time of day, the light, and Mother Nature, these fountains are answered, “Designer? Artist? This was like a design project. This is a functional object, a creation to create something truly innovative.”

In the end, this specific project took a significant amount of time. “Our master cutters and employees worked for two years to develop the Swarovski crystal outdoors. The project was a bit sad.” Each fountain has a central bronze mast that supports the crystal elements, visible from the exterior. The designers collaborated closely with Swarovski, with whom they have worked before, and ended up with a new type of crystal designed to be shock resistant, water resistant, light resistant, and able to withstand extreme weather conditions. “The most important factor is having a shared vision of the project, and it differs in interior and exterior which is pretty rare. Unlike the Paris fountains, the new Champs-Élysées fountains are not put in a confined space, they are open to the public and contribute to the Parisian landscape through an ever-changing display of urban poetry. Depending on the time of day, the light, and Mother Nature, these fountains are answered, “Designer? Artist? This was like a design project. This is a functional object, a creation to create something truly innovative.”

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