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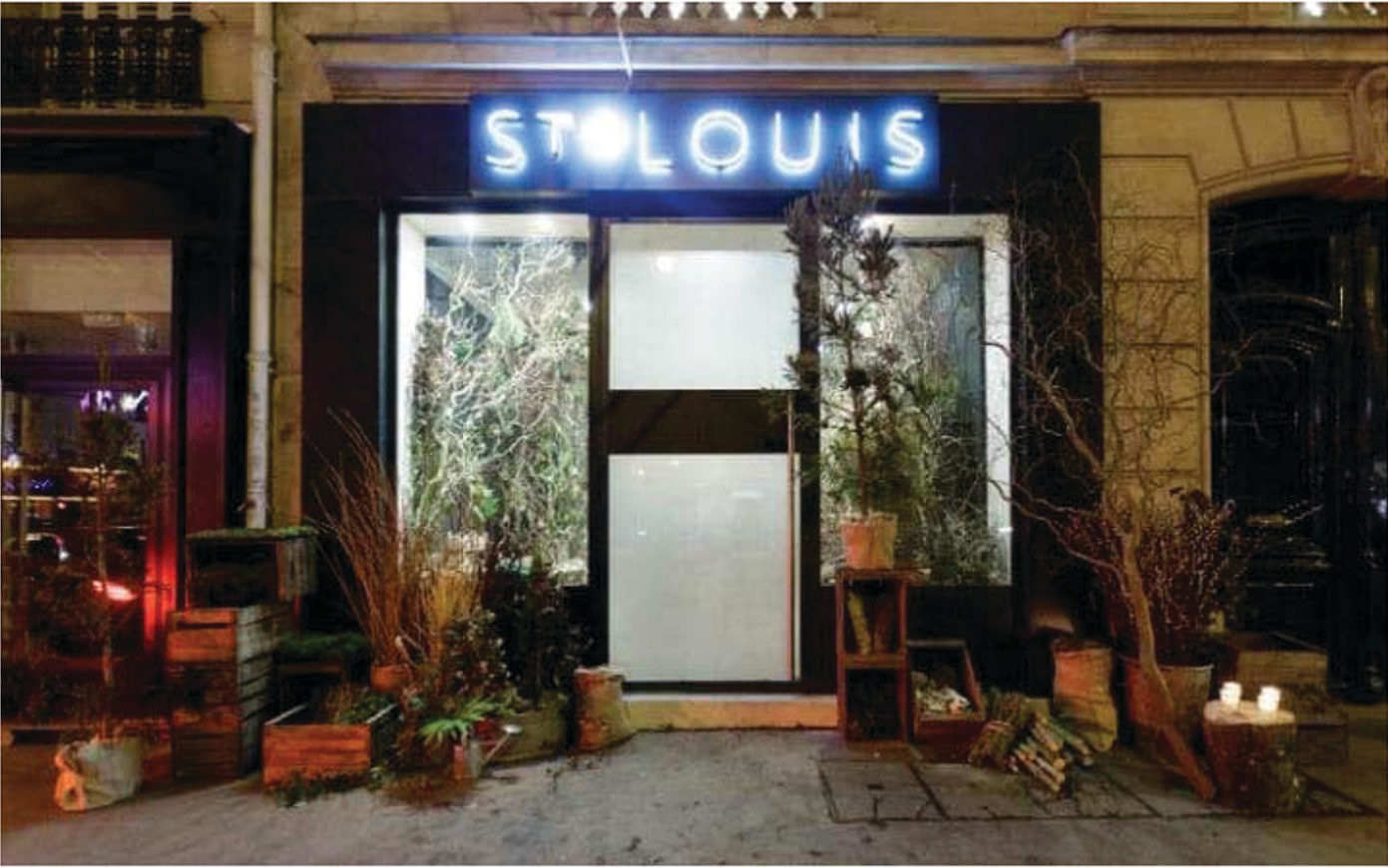
## Into the crystal forest: Saint-Louis launches the Folia collection by Noé Duchaufour-Lawrance



The entire Folia family designed by Noé Duchaufour-Lawrance for Saint-Louis Crystal



One of the highlights during the recent Maison et Objet design fair actually took place in town, in the form of a pop-up on Paris's Left Bank. From the street a small shopfront resembled a florist of sorts, albeit one specialising in woodland ferns, bulbs and mushrooms rather than the usual blooms and bouquets.



The Saint Louis pop-up CREDIT: TONY TRICHANH

Only a simple white neon sign reading "St. Louis" gave the game away. Saint-Louis is France's oldest and most venerable crystal house and this sylvanian wonderland was created to launch its latest crystalware and debut furniture collection, developed by leading French designer Noé Duchaufour-Lawrance.



Noé Duchaufour-Lawrance with pieces from Folia



Known for his sculptural approach, Duchaufour-Lawrance initially made his name in restaurant interiors - he was artistic director for Sketch in Mayfair in 2002 - but since then has worked for numerous brands including Hermès, Ligne Roset, Bernhardt Design and Ceccotti Collezioni.



Inside the Saint-Louis "forest" pop-up

Saint-Louis' enchanting scenography was no mere social media folly - although it did post a great Instagram - but a reflection of the Manufacture's forest home, which is set deep in a valley in the northern Vosges regional park. The verdant funghi-scented shop gave way to a larger clearing encircled by birch trees in which Duchaufour-Lawrance's ash wood and crystal furniture pieces were unveiled.



Folia lighting



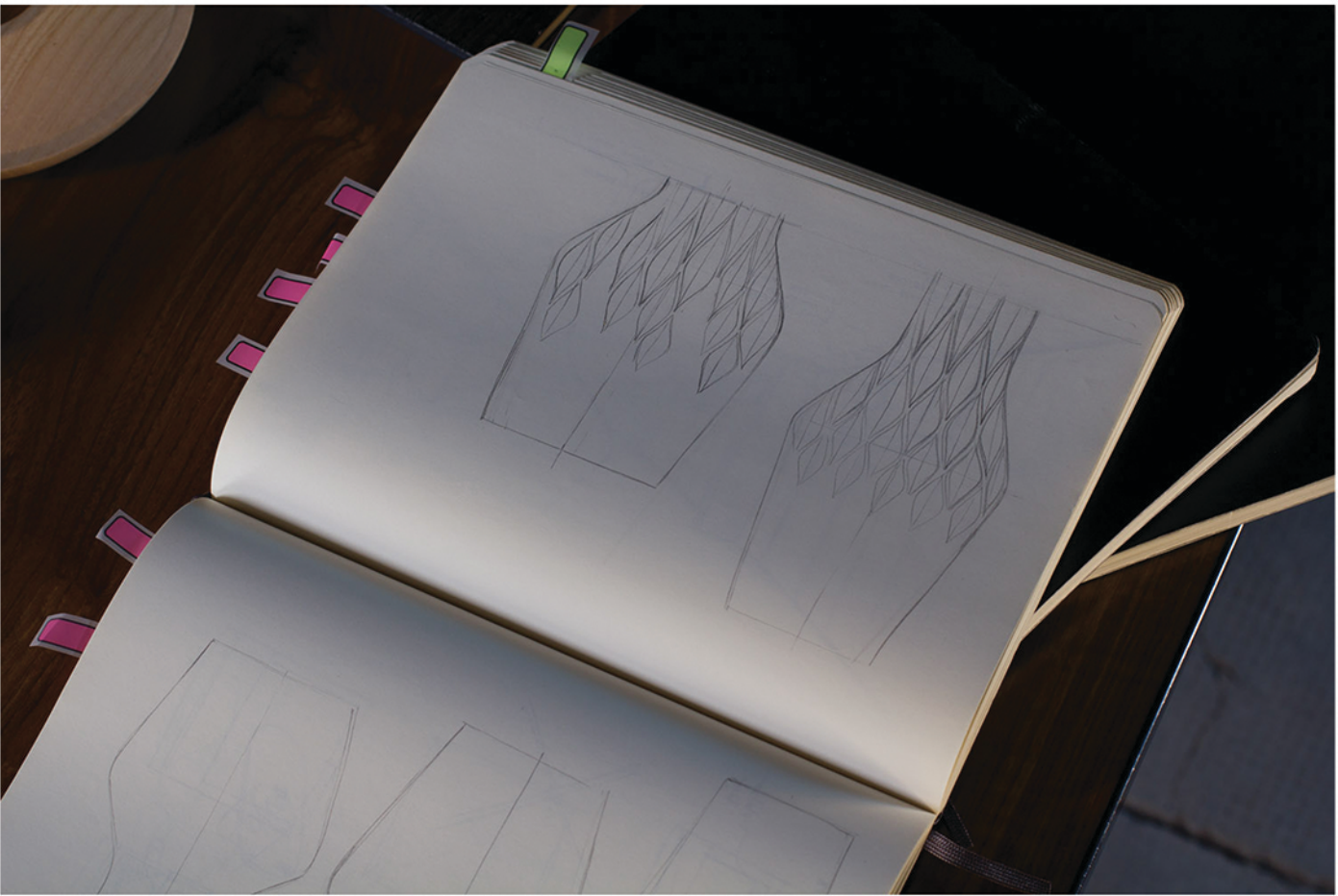
A voyage of discovery, the installation continued upstairs where crystal lighting radiated patterns across the walls and floors of a darkened room, while an actor read poetry aloud. The brilliant halo effect of the crystal intensified in an inner chamber, essentially a mirrored cube, best experienced solo.

The finale was a spacious, light-filled room where a “forest” of crystal stemware filled the parquet floor and the sonorous chimes of a sound therapist playing crystal vessels provided a soothing soundtrack, as Duchaufour-Lawrance explained the inspiration behind the collection.



Folia stemware CREDIT: TONY TRICHANH

“I went in 150 directions, but ultimately we kept returning to the organic shape of the leaf. The cut of the Folia crystal is inspired by a leaf that appears to fly onto the crystal or can tessellate to infinity, becoming a geometric honeycomb structure,” says Duchaufour-Lawrance who spent considerable time at the Manufacture when developing the designs over a two-year period.



Noé Duchaufour-Lawrance's sketches for Folia

“I like to immerse myself in the context, the place where the product is made, to understand the technique and also the archive. Saint-Louis has a beautiful museum full of its own pieces but also crystal from other companies and sometimes just found pieces from markets.”





Folia glassware being made

The archive storage in particular informed the furniture and lighting pieces. "I didn't want to cover furniture with crystal, that felt too heavy for me, this material is about evanescence. The storage shelves you see at the Manufacture are in untreated timber. So my sketches revealed a system of boxes with the idea of having a piece of crystal in each. The contrast, like a burst of warmth, highlights the radiance of the crystal." Executed in ash, the simple blonde wood frames and box-like structures of the furniture and lighting lend a contemporary context to this centuries-old material.



Folia furniture inspired by archive storage

Duchafour-Lawrance is particularly pleased with the stemware, where the leaf pattern extends from the bowl into the stem of the glass - creating kaleidoscopic effects. "It involved considerable innovation, we had to adjust the depth of the glass to that of the cut, without breaking it. Hundreds of tests were carried out before we succeeded. The result is unrivaled diffraction of light in a stemmed glass. It gives the impression of drinking pure light."

*Folia glassware starts at £90 for a shot glass, lighting starts starts at £1,490 for the table lamp and up to £4,340 for the floor lamp, the side table is £2,625 and the largest console furniture is £5,335.*

[Saint-Louis.com](http://Saint-Louis.com)