



KONCERN
DESIGN STUDIO

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ENGINEERING COLLECTION – Press Release

Koncern Design Studio with Rückl Crystal a.s.

Presentation Theme: *As archaic as Engineers like*

Engineering Collection is a result of the cooperation of Koncern Design and glassworks Rückl Crystal a.s. It is related to the tradition of Czech hand-craft crystal glassware and moves it forward.

Czech crystal glassware has become a victim of unstable development of Czech economy in last decades. Glass industry was a major artifact of export policy of communist Czechoslovakia in years 1948 – 1989. In last seventeen years it has been facing a new phenomenon – the tourist industry. Both have devastating impacts: It was and it is required to remain at the historicist forms. As a consequence, the minimal development was made.

Five collections made by Koncern Design meet current requirements for utility and aesthetics in the field of luxurious beverage glassware. It brings a new fancy features into stagnate glasswork industry.

Engineering Collection is exactly in the spirit of experiments of Koncern Design, based on the ironic concept. The matter and the shape of individual collections are elicited from the appearance of metal machine components. Quotation, roughness marks and adequate engineering standards sand blasted into the surface of the 24% lead crystal then evoke a polemic with the character of glassware industry. The exact engineering products are not a part of symbolic language of the times of avant-garde any more. Nowadays, we sense it strictly aesthetically, as a peculiar elegance of former industrial époque. In the *Engineering Collection* this idiom is applied on the glassware products as another of possible historicist ornamentics.

Koncern Design entered the area which others designers avoid. Company Rückl Crystal produces in smaller series sets of beverage glassware for whiskey (M80x6), champagne (Morse 1:50), wine (red wine – Involute Gearing, white wine – Basic Quotation) and absinth (Splined Shaft).

About Koncern Design

Koncern Design was founded in 2000 by two designers Jiří Přibyl and Martin Imrich. We focus on designing consumer products and apart from other things we regularly create non-commercial projects in the zone of free art and experiment.

Although the beverage glass collection “Engineering Collection” for Rückl Crystal a.s. was originally created as an experiment with its conceptual basis it has become one of our commercial projects afterwards.

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About Rückl Crystal a.s. Glassworks:

Rückl Crystal a.s. continues a rich family tradition of glass-making that started more than 300 years ago.

For more than 100 years the Rückl glassworks was a supplier of glassware for the Habsburg court in Vienna.

In 1905 the company started producing beverage glass sets in geometric art nouveau style, in 1910 cubist liqueur collections and in 1925 it was one of the first glassworks to produce beverage glass collections in functional style (design by Ludvika Smrčková).

In 2006 Rückl Crystal a.s. established a partnership with Koncern Design to work on "Engineering Collection". The glassworks is coming back to its traditional approach to up-to-date development in glass design.

www.ruckl.cz