LASVIT

CZECH GLASS RAINS DOWN IN HOUSTON, FRAGMENTS OF LIGHT FILL THE POST OAK HOTEL AT UPTOWN HOUSTON

A dance of light and glass pearls brightens up the lobby of the Post Oak Hotel at Uptown Houston. With an exterior made of limestone, granite, and marble, and the interior adorned by mesmerizing Bohemian crystal, the hotel, where Gensler wasLi the master designer, architect, and interior designer, is visually enthralling in every sense.



Upon entering the tower's lobby, a grand chandelier laced with myriad crystals greets the guests. The three-story installation was inspired by the opulence of an Oscarworthy necklace. In Houston, it was customized specifically for the hotel, which is awash in greenery, standing tall amid a canopy of majestic post oak trees and cascading fountains. The elements of nature and of vibrant gardens are the very essence of the chandelier's design. "*The installation bears the symbolism of both the innumerable sand grains and of countless water drops. The centerpiece has the dynamic shape of the spiral, which always creates a dense volume,*" says the designer Libor Sošťák.

Overall, 15,719 glass bubbles and organic shapes were blown to fill the space of the lobby with their tender beauty. "Each of these Bohemian crystal glass components captures light in an enchanting way, enlivens the lobby, and sets the stage for the rest of the luxurious experience throughout the hotel," says Gail McCleese, Interior Design Director of Gensler, who traveled to the Lasvit factory in Czechia to oversee the creation of this breathtaking chandelier. The construction includes 1428 LED lights and 738 Swarovski delicate crystal balls which hang at the end of each wire.

Leaf Is in the Air

Natural and organic shapes fill other parts of the building as well. It was mostly the huge and burly post oak tree that inspired the LASVIT designers – they decided to blow the spirit of this magnificent tree right into the hotel, where it materialized in the form of a custom-made lighting installation adorning the VIP areas. Hand-made, unique glass components hang on almost invisible wires, while others are connected to the metal branches. Both installations are bearers of the same symbol – the oak – which is also depicted on the logo of the hotel itself.

LASVIT designers Luděk Hroch and Maria Hostinová Čulenová let themselves be inspired by this symbol of strength and boundless perseverance. Adorned with components of both clear and amber hues, the installation gives a truly autumn impression.

The same theme continues in the ballroom, where rustling leaves are depicted on the lavish carpets. A 16,000-squarefoot space with seating for up 900 people is decorated with 12 ring-shaped chandeliers of minimalist Bohemian perfection. A wide variety of components was used to create the rings planted with almost sixteen thousand Crystal



prisms – components that shine brighter than a diamond. Each piece reflects a rainbow spectrum on the surrounding walls.

The Post Oak Hotel at Uptown Houston is an extraordinary place. Billionaire Tilman J. Fertitta wanted to bring something new into the field of hospitality and place it right in the middle of the fourth largest city in the USA. *"Houston has never had a property like this and I wanted to be the one to deliver it,"* said Fertitta in the <u>press release</u>. The centerpiece of his 10-acre mixed-use project includes restaurants, retail shops, offices, event spaces and more.

NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT LASVIT

LASVIT is a creative hub of glassmaking talents, fresh ideas, and daring designs. This young, progressive Czech glassmaking and design company inspires the world with its breath taking custom-made installations exhibited all over the world, as well as with its unique lighting and glassware collections made from hand-blown glass. The founder of Lasvit, Leon Jakimič, steers the company with the utmost respect for the Czech glassmaking tradition, but also with a boundless optimism for modern technologies and cutting-edge design.

In past years, Lasvit has attracted many renowned designers and artists who wanted to collaborate with an unconventional Czech company. In cooperation with Lasvit, many stars such as the Campana Brothers, Kengo Kuma, Yabu Pushelberg, Nendo or Ross Lovegrove, have created some of their most unforgettable glass collections. Ever since 2007, Lasvit has been on a mission: to bring beauty, happiness, and a piece of the Bohemian soul to clients worldwide, and thus change the world for the better. Let Lasvit in, let the changes begin.

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