

Right: a colourful picture of Windfall's new showroom-cum-studio in Amalienstrasse in the heart of Munich, Germany. Here light artists, Clarissa Dorn and Roel Haagmans and their team, have sufficient space – at least for now – to achieve the world-wide expansion they envisage.

Below: lighting objects designed by Windfall for the lobby of 'Dwell 95', a residential project in New York. It is a yoo Architects London (Philippe Starck) project for Moinian Group. Beside that: a view of Cavalli in Paris and a Windfall creation at Montblanc in Mexico City. The interior design is by Montblanc's Hamburg studio.

Below that: a more industrial approach of the 'crystal chandelier' concept in the studio/showroom lobby.

Far right: Clarissa Dorn and Roel Haagmans.



photos: windfall



text + photos: Hans Fonk

SHINING LIGHT FROM MUNICH



In a short time they have acquired an international reputation. Today they work with famous architects and designers creating light installations as alternatives to the traditional chandelier. The element that has been retained is crystal, though in a dramatically different form. Clarissa Dorn and Roel Haagmans work in the German city of Munich, building with the speed of lighting a growing array of new, customised lighting items for impressive projects world wide.

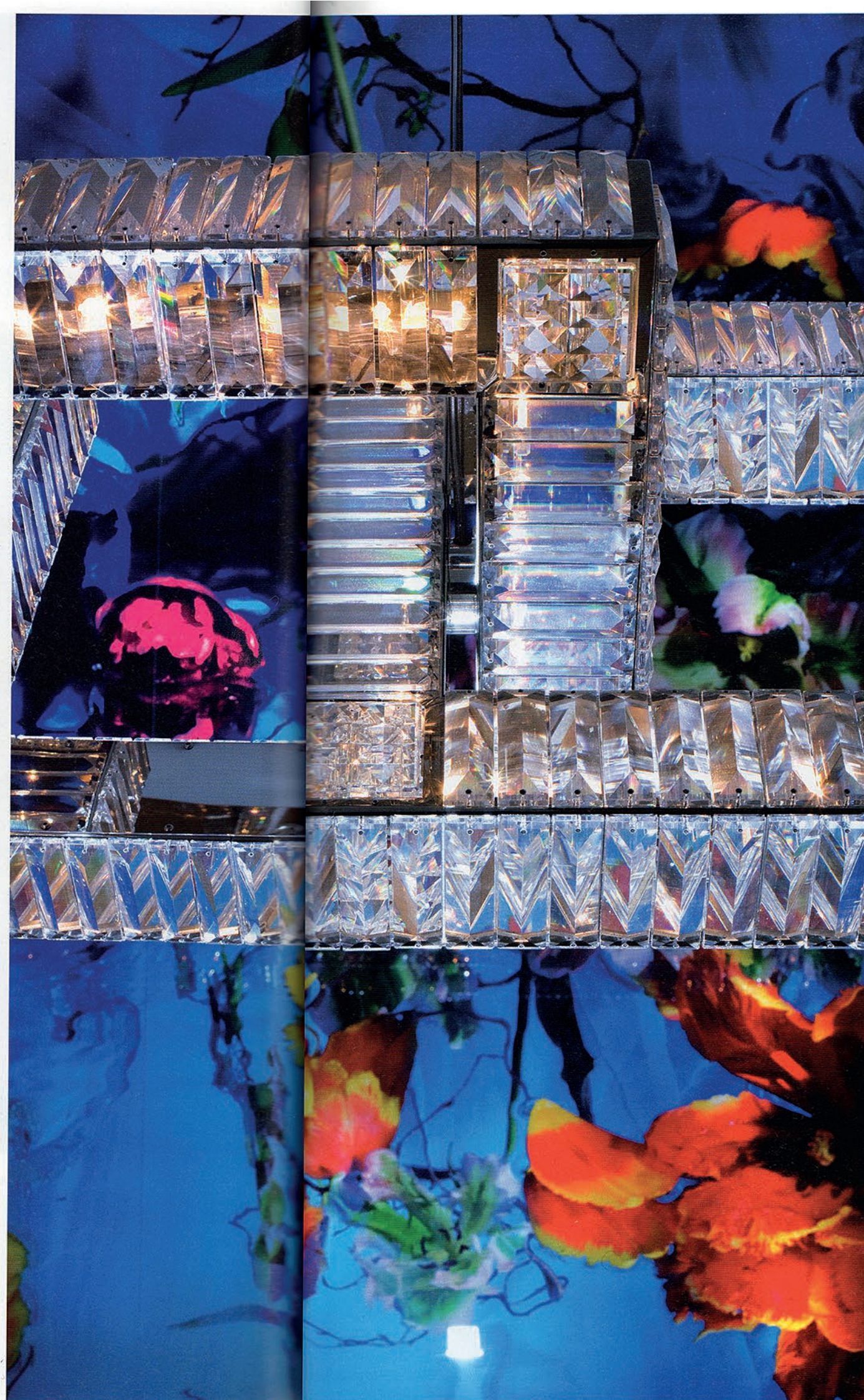
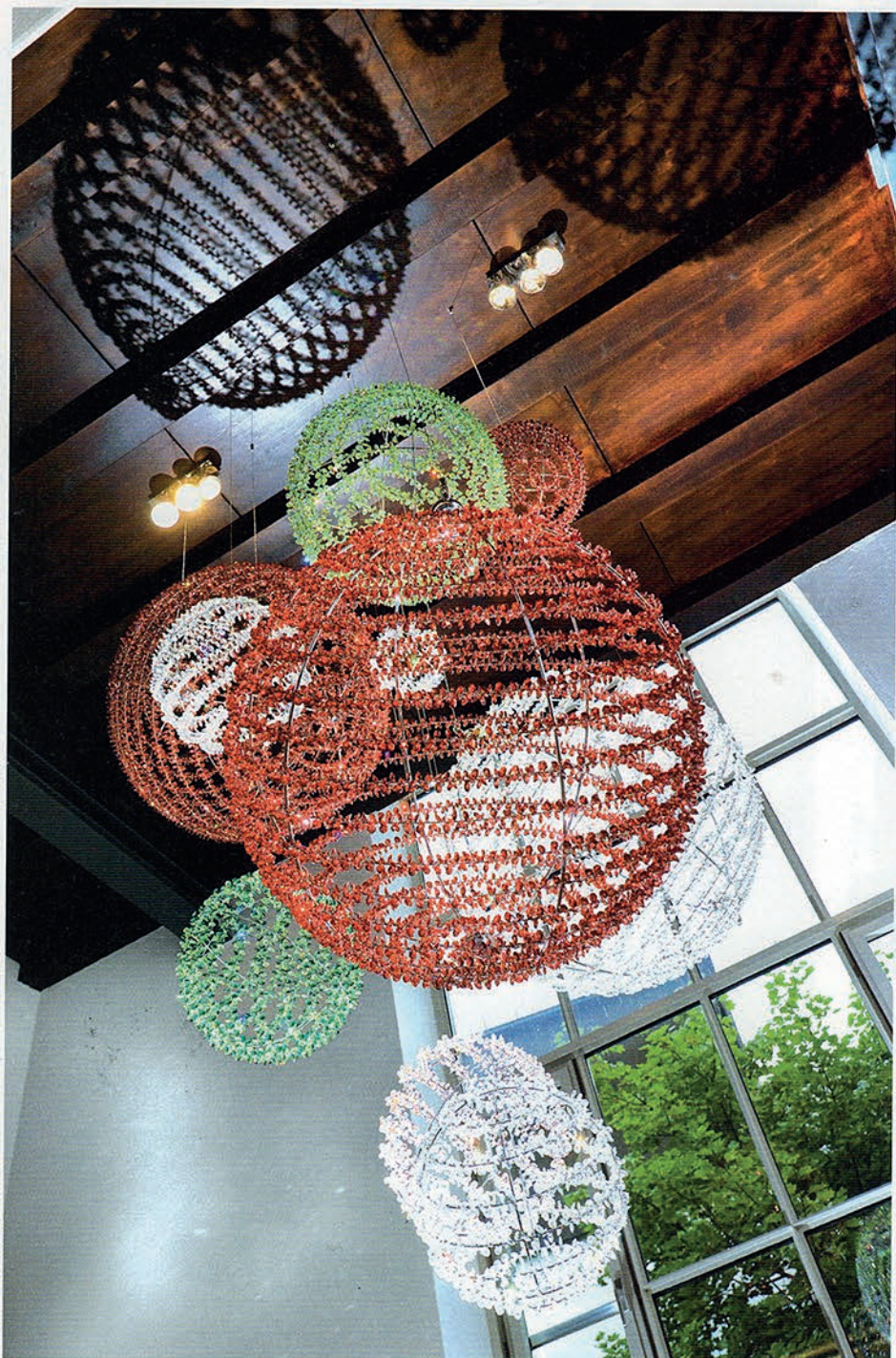
OBJEKT©International travelled to southern Germany, to Bavaria, and experienced their creative magic.



Above: part of the Windfall showroom with crystal chandeliers in every possible variation of form and colour. The sofa is by Roche Bobois. Left: detail of one of the chandeliers made with Swarovski crystals – they look quite different in this rendering.

Below: a large lighting installation in the lobby at the Windfall studio.

Right: detail of a cleanly-designed lamp.



Roel Haagmans is Dutch by birth, but for many years has lived and worked in the German city of Munich. He ended up creating chandeliers by chance, when he saw a notice in the local employment agency advertising a vacancy with a prestigious lighting manufacturer. He applied and was taken on. Everything there was 'classical' and he made a name for himself with designs for colossal chandeliers, for instance for the Sultan Quaboos Mosque in Muscat and the Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi.

When he joined forces in 2004 with the German designer, Clarissa Dorn, she was already creating a stir with her chandelier designs and with interior design.

Together they started Windfall to "explore the potential of contemporary crystal chandeliers", as they put it themselves. It was to be a voyage of discovery with its fair share of hardships, yet leading relatively quickly to international success.

"With Windfall we have redefined the use of crystal in chandeliers. We have pared form down to essence, eliminating all unnecessary, classical frills. We have developed our own, refreshing aesthetic, which from the start captured the attention of the world's top designers and architect. We are constantly seeking to discover – and deploy – new forms, on the look-out for unconventional solutions. We also develop new techniques to turn our ideas into illuminating pieces", the proud inventors explained at the opening in autumn 2012 of their showroom and studio in the heart of Munich. There, a small selection of prototypes and designs are on display from their oeuvre, which on the whole is geared to specific projects. For their products, they use top quality crystals, for instance from Swarovski, as well as Murano glass and antique varieties of glass and crystal. They combine these crystals with a wide range of materials, including bronze, aluminium, stainless steel and 24-carat gold – depending on the type and scope of the project.

The list of clients and completed projects gives an idea of the extent to which their creations enrich the world. They include Italo Rota Architects (Milan) David Chipperfield Arch. (London), yoo/Philippe Starck (London), Jestico & Whiles, Scott Brownrigg (London), Jean Philippe Nuel (Paris), KCA International (London), Reflexion (Zurich), HBA (Los Angeles), Bost Design (Berlin), Davies Baron (London), Spence, Harris & Hogan (London), Plajer & Franz (Berlin), Dilmos Gallery (Milan), Paul Steelman Design (Las Vegas), and many more.