

# LASVIT

## THE MARRIAGE OF PURITY AND DECADENCE IN THE INTERIORS OF THE NEW BELLAGIO HOTEL



June 2018 - The new Bellagio hotel brings the glamour of the previous century right into the spotlight of the glitziest city in China. Situated in the Bund, a historical waterfront area where old European banking and trading houses gaze over the river at the towering financial center, the Bellagio hotel unites these seemingly contradictory aesthetics.

The hotel embodies the modern interpretation of Art Deco, an architectural style so typical for Shanghai, the city with the world's richest collection of this unique architectural style. LASVIT, the world-renowned manufacturer of bespoke lighting installations, accepted the task of capturing the essence of this place in their lighting sculptures, making them fit the overall design concept created by the famous interior designers from Wimberly Interiors Los Angeles. In cooperation with this prestigious firm, LASVIT designers set their imagination free and combined sleek and sophisticated design with a hint of decadence in seven custom-made installations.

The most challenging piece was the ballroom installation. LASVIT glassblowers worked five months to cover the ceiling which stretches to a full 350 square meters. Under the designers' supervision, LASVIT glassblowers created myriad flowers adorned by heart-shaped leaves.



The glass meadow, which plays in the shades of violet and pink, is composed of almost 1500 components and when you step into the room and look up, it's like walking right into a child's dream – a little girl's fairytale fantasy, as innocent as it gets.



### **Unchained fantasies**

As you walk through the ballroom, the fantasies will change and the further corner above the stairs, allows you to explore the darker corners of your imagination. Set your mind free when you look at the “Unchained” chandelier designed by LASVIT's in-house designer Luděk Hroch.

From a height of more than 13 meters falls a curtain of massive metal chains which are entangled with trimmings made of pure crystal glass.

*“At first, I was thinking of a waterfall, the water's unrestrained strength, and the energy it has. Then I imagined how the water spills from the bucket, falls freely and then hits the ground, splashes and flows before it sinks into the soil,”* describes Hroch his creative process.

Small lights are placed inside the bole in the middle of the installation, so the light flows down like water pouring from a bucket to the ground. The use of metal chains also has its symbolism. A thing that normally constitutes incarceration or imprisonment hangs freely like a curtain to symbolize the very opposite – freedom and vivacity. LASVIT had the chains custom-made for this special project.

### **Fragile glass captured in steel armor**

The third bespoke installation designed by Věra Soukupová pushed the design frame even further. She managed to unite the quiddity of tenderness and roughness in one single lighting installation.

The piece gives an impression of being made of stainless steel, but that is only an illusion – the components, all precisely combined into the overall 5,5-meter high cone, are all made of glass.



The metal look was achieved by the special final finish. Each component has a shape which resembles the organically shaped cage with sharp tips, and it was incredibly difficult to make such a shape in the glassworks only with the help of human hands and breath.

The outstanding installations in the ballroom and on the retail promenade are accompanied by other pieces designed by LASVIT which are placed on the walls in the ballroom and above the heads of the guests milling in the hotel's lobby. Two five-meter wide installations illuminate the lobby lounge while the magnificent lighting made of fused glass hangs in the lobby itself.

The Bellagio hotel in Shanghai is a new milestone in the chain of Bellagio hotels. It is the first time in history that this 5-star luxury hotel was opened by MGM outside North America and it is the first Bellagio in China. The hotel is designed and built in a way which harks back to the glamorous days of former Shanghai, portraying it as the birthplace of Art Deco – the Paris of the East.

It was the second time that LASVIT tied hands with Suning Real Estate. The installations from the Czech company also decorate their Hyatt Regency Wuxi hotel.

Suning Real Estate is rapidly becoming the leading commercial real estate company in China, building an integrated and innovative real estate business chain which focuses on three development programs: commercial real estate, city and town, and residential real estate.

## **NOTE FOR 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 breathtaking 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.

[www.lasvit.com](http://www.lasvit.com)

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