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WINTER 2009

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FRANK GEHRY REINVENTS THE AGO

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Is it one candlestick or three? You decide. The Vice Versa is playfully adaptable.



CRYSTAL CLEAR

Drawing on his global rambles for inspiration, New York designer Vicente Wolf makes light of crystal.

Large, heavy, and essentially minimalist, Vicente Wolf's new works for Baccarat crystal paradoxically appear eminently touchable, weightless, and organic. In a new collaboration that he is trying on, the New York City interior designer has created a series of modern designs for the crystal maker.

"My design is not untouchable," Wolf agrees. "It's never elitist; it's user-friendly. We're living in a more democratic age, a time of individuality, with a sense of broader perspective." There's no single mould that people fit into, he points out, and therefore no single way to use his pieces.

By way of example, the designer points to his Vice and Versa candlestick. Made of three unique yet similar shapes, it can be displayed as a traditional grouping or stacked to form a distinctive 18-inch piece reminiscent in form, he says, of the Palmyra columns that inspired them. "They're meant for you to move them around; you put your own personal touch on them. That's the opposite of elitist."

Wolf travels the world constantly, for business and for pleasure, and has written about the ways in which his journeys inform his work, most recently in *Crossing Boundaries: A Global Vision of Design*. He named the Baccarat line "Latitude" in homage to the inspiration such wanderings provide him.

What interests Wolf about the solid Latitude pieces is the sense of architecture they project. "The light on the forms brings something to a space that nothing else can. They're not so much decorative—they don't need a flower propped in them. They're sculptural; they don't need to serve a purpose."

Baccarat's Latitude series by Vicente Wolf is available through Studio b.



The 14" Equator bowl soothes the eye with its concentric "water ripple" pattern.



Wolf's Meridian Boat is a 24"-long bowl, scooped out on the inside and hand-cut on the outside in a reference to the dug-out log river boats that he saw in the Indonesian island of Borneo.