



Palace
and side



A step back in time to industrial past

Elizabeth Turner

JEAN DUNAND Master watchmaker Christophe Claret and horological entrepreneur Thierry Oulevay named their watch company Jean Dunand after the Swiss-born artist.

He is considered one of the greatest artists of the Art Deco period renowned for his sculptures, but especially for his lacquer work.

The new Jean Dunand is intent on pushing the boundaries of modern timepieces by creating horological works consistent with the ideals of art deco: simple geometrics, functional design and excellent craftsmanship.

At BaselWorld the watchmaker

launched its new Palace creation. The watch pays homage to the Industrial Revolution that spawned inventions, such as the car, airplanes, and architectural works such as the Eiffel Tower. The watch takes its name from London's Crystal Palace, which Jean Dunand the watchmaker believes heralded the Industrial Revolution.

The watch exposes the nuts, bolts, gears and pistons of the industrial past in their reincarnated mechanical form.

At the heart of the timepiece is a flying tourbillon with skeletal hour and minute hands sitting above it.

On each side of the tourbillon are two vertical tracks inspired by elevators; the right hand track shows

the 72-hour power reserve and the left track indicates GMT. Bridges, wheels and the winding mechanism are visible through the case back and front; the winder is crafted from a tiny chain reminiscent of the chain drives of vintage Indian motorcycles.

The movement's plates are separated and supported by 10 tiny pillars that are visible through the case sides.

Other details that are also visible through the case sides are inspired by the arches of the Eiffel Tower base.

A larger than normal movement - 38mm by 36mm - was required to house all its components and the movement comes in a 48mm by 49mm titanium case.