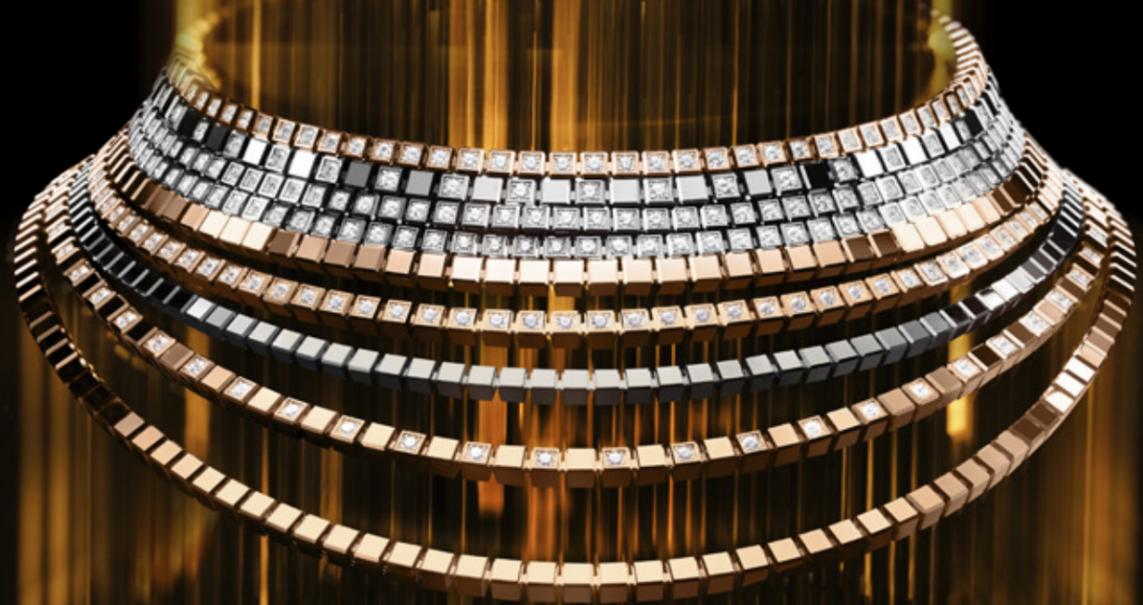


Play it cool



CHOPARD is expanding its iconic
ICE CUBE line via SCULPTED BY
LIGHT, a high jewellery CAPSULE
inspired by the CITY that
NEVER SLEEPS

words TESS DE VIVIE DE RÉGIE

Manhattan, the backdrop to so many works in the creative canon, with its skyscrapers studded with lights stretching as far as the eye can see, never ceases to captivate locals and visitors alike. And Chopard is paying homage to the metropolis' unmatched glamour and energy with its Sculpted by Light collection, the latest addition to the Swiss jewellery house's iconic Ice Cube range.

Designed by Chopard's co-president and artistic director, Caroline Scheufele, Ice Cube was launched in 1999 and ushered in a clean and contemporary silhouette for the house on the cusp of a new millennium. Chopard presented the world with its first Ice Cube Haute Joaillerie collection in 2024, and this year's high jewellery capsule expands the motif into, as Scheufele puts it, "modern art for the body".

"The skyline of New York inspired this Ice Cube collection – the vertical buildings and the skyscrapers," Scheufele tells *Harper's BAZAAR* in Chopard's flagship Fifth Avenue boutique. The city presents an urban landscape a far cry from the house's beginnings in 1860, when they were founded in Switzerland's serene Jura Mountains by Louis-Ulysse Chopard, a talented young watchmaker. "You look up in the evening [in New York City] and it really is this shining, bright silhouette, which is magical." New York City's dominance of the fashion world also made it an obvious choice of source material. "It's a very fashionable collection," she notes. "Obviously, when you get dressed, you look at what type of jewellery you're going to wear that [works] with the dress – or, hopefully, vice versa."

The capsule centres around a nine-strand necklace, crafted from rose and white gold and punctuated with diamond brilliants – a modular piece built of three separate segments that can be worn separately or together, depending on the occasion. The cubes composing the strands are placed at differing heights, calling to mind a horizon of staggered buildings and inviting light to bounce off its multifaceted surface, while a glint of diamonds suggests windows illuminated at night.

"If you wear the nine-row necklace, it's obviously quite a statement," reflects Scheufele. "But it's nice when you just have the three [rows] to wear with jeans or t-shirts. It's up-and-down dressing. [The Ice Cube] is a simple element that can go in different ways." The collection is also a fresh alternative to the traditional formality of high jewellery. "Ice Cube is for the present," says Scheufele. "It's cool [and] really minimalist."

OPPOSITE PAGE Ice Cube High Jewellery Choker Necklace, POA.
THIS PAGE Ice Cube High Jewellery Earrings, POA.

Photography: courtesy of Chopard.



THIS PAGE FROM TOP
Ice Cube High Jewellery Choker
Necklace, Ice Cube High Jewellery
Cuff Bracelet, and Ice Cube High
Jewellery Ring, all POA.



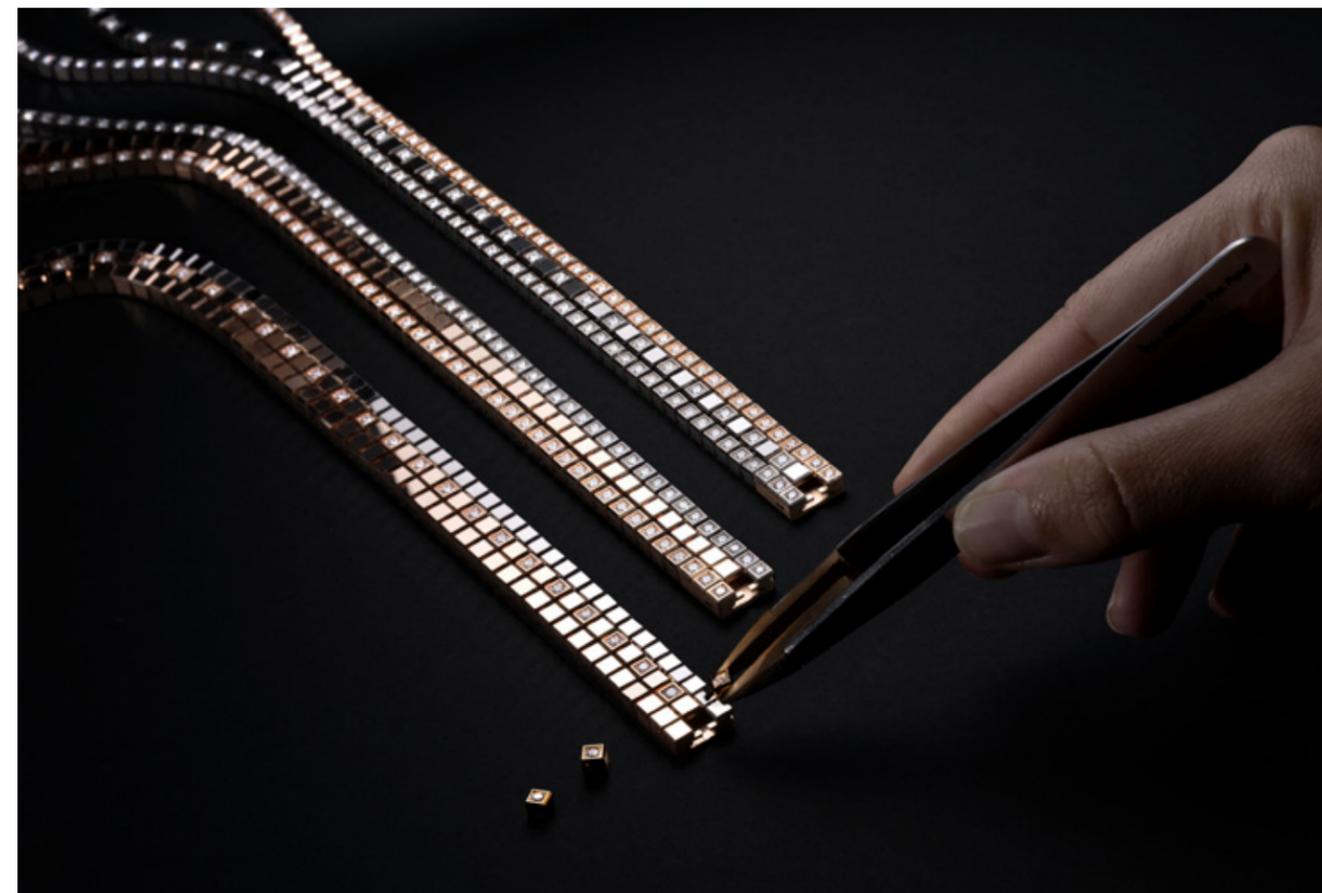
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– *Caroline
Scheufele*

Cuff bracelets, available in rows of three or six, undulate around the wrist and flow with the wearer’s movement, thanks to their cubic, mesh-like texture. A sleek brooch, intended for unisex wear, offers its owner a wealth of options for styling: on one’s lapel or pocket, slid across a tie or as a clip to sweep hair back. Both the bracelet and brooch come in a handful of variations: rose or white gold bases and either partially or fully set with diamonds. And as with their stablemates within the wider Ice Cube family, the bracelets can be stacked to one’s heart’s content.

Much like the necklace, the cubes of the bracelet lie at varying heights, which made achieving a high shine across all the cubes a technical challenge for Chopard’s artisans. “If you polish too much, [the surface] just gets rounded off, so it [loses its] sharpness,” explains Scheufele. “It’s technically very challenging, but I think, thanks to our watchmaking [experience], we managed to do that pretty well.”

Also new to the line are sleek drop earrings, with 14 diamond-set cubes suspended from 1.2-carat diamond solitaires. “They remind you of a skyscraper,” notes Scheufele of the pair, which can be worn as simple studs if desired. The cut of the solitaires – the finely angular Asscher-cut – is as much a hallmark of ’20s glamour as the Art Deco architectural masterpieces like the Chrysler and Empire State Buildings that dominate the New York City skyline. This cut additionally serves as the focal point of a showstopping ring: a three-carat diamond perched diagonally across two 18-carat white gold bands and studded with diamond brilliants.

This collection was conceived with sustainability front of mind; indeed, since 2018, all of Chopard’s watches and



Photography: courtesy of Chopard.

jewellery have used 100 per cent ethical gold. Scheufele began exploring the issue after meeting Italian sustainability advocate Livia Giuggioli Firth years ago during an Oscars event. “I was chit-chatting with her over coffee and she says, ‘Caroline, where does your gold come from?’” recalls Scheufele. Firth’s enquiry sent Scheufele down a rabbit hole and inspired what would evolve into Chopard’s ‘Journey to Sustainable Luxury’.

“Everyone likes to know how the product they fell in love with has been produced from the beginning,” says Scheufele. “I’m very proud that we can fully answer this question and say, ‘Listen, you can follow the supply chain [the whole way through]’. It’s also, in a way, an addition to the luxury, because I think luxury should be transparent.”

Chopard’s dedication to ethically sourcing materials was a major draw for Bella Hadid, who came on board as a Global Ambassador for the house in 2024, when she fronted its first Ice Cube Haute Joaillerie collection. “I’ve been a longtime admirer of Chopard given their gorgeous craftsmanship and commitment to sustainability,” said Hadid of the collaboration.

“I think she’s a perfect character and perfect soul for the Ice Cube collection,” reflects Scheufele. “She’s also very much into sustainability and I don’t have to talk about how beautiful she is.”

“It’s a very simple design, but as with cooking, the best meat doesn’t have any sauce, but it’s the most difficult to [prepare],” says Scheufele of the Ice Cube motif that she first brought to the world 26 years ago. But it’s the purity of the Ice Cube’s clean lines and the arch elegance of its geometric form that continue to present boundless opportunities for pushing boundaries creatively. “It’s a great base. You can really play with it.” HB