

◀ The prize winner – the variable accessory piece by Weinmann and Stapff.



▲ The clasp of the handbag which converts into a brooch or pendant of gold with diamonds, topaz, Tahitian pearl and Magic Pearl with opal inlay.



A close-up of the handbag.



▲ The handbag with its long chain made of two colliers of Tahitian pearls and Magic Pearls.

Successful new idea for pearls

A procedure to adapt precious stones to the shape of pearls and cut them into the pearl has created an opportunity to independently control the natural process. This is difficult to monitor in the course of pearl cultivation. The system uses precious stone inlays to enhance the pearl.

This invention, Magic Pearls, by Gabriele Weinman and Wigbert Stapff of Heidelberg, Germany, has achieved phenomenal success. They have recently been awarded First Prize in the Regional Tahitian Pearl Trophy for an accessory – a handbag or purse, as the Americans call it. This has a long chain which combines two colliers of multicoloured Tahitian pearls and Magic Pearls and converts into individual jewels.

The partners have been named "The Pearl Innovators" and their remarkable accessory has also received a special prize in the United Arab Emirates and third prize in the International Tahitian Pearl Trophy. The Magic Pearls on the collier have inlays of opal, green and red tourmaline, citrine, beryl and chrysoptase. The handbag's clasp which can be worn as a brooch or pendant, is of gold inlaid with diamonds, topaz, Tahitian pearls and Magic Pearls.

The handbag, named a Thousand-and-One-Inspiration, as well as holding essentials such as keys, credit cards, lipstick and cellular phone, has a long single or double

stranded necklace, as well as the aforementioned brooch or pendant which can be opened on the back to insert different variations of fabrics.

The concept of Magic Pearls, which is registered, first exhibited at Basel 2001, is not merely decorating the pearls by covering the natural imperfections. Rather the Magic Pearls process cuts out the imperfect parts and restores the pearl's natural form by replacing the cut-out portion with a precious stone. This creates windows of light which appear or disappear with each movement of the wearer. The pearl thus gains additional appeal and attraction, creating fascinating individual results while eliminating irregularities.

The silken shimmer of the pearls and the intense fire of the precious stones create an individual jewel ranging from the modification of classic pearl jewellery to avant-garde pieces.

Weinmann and Stapff opened their goldsmith studio in 1989. Since then they have held regular exhibitions focusing on various topics for new jewellery. Included have been jewellery based on Chinese characters, opal combined with pink diamonds, flying feather jewellery, erotic temptations, Egyptian hieroglyphics plus petrified wood, cat's eye, star gems and other exotics, Conch pearls, Tahitian pearls and now their Magic Pearls. ■

