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The Glass Age: Beautiful and Eco-centered Glass Products of 2023

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3523 collection. Courtesy of Birst Copenhagen.



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In an era many professionals refer to as the Glass Age, we follow the year of glass with a roundup of some beautiful and eco-centered glass products released in 2023.

Organizations dedicated to the glass-making industry previously united to discuss the scientific and technical breakthroughs in the industry as well as the material's influence on art and history, leading the UN to approve a joint application to declare 2022 as the year of glass. This decision opened the door to focusing more seriously on glass as a prime material for eco-products and eco-constructions. Many benefits of glass point to the medical field, such as the chemically resistant container material for life-saving treatments, and the architecture industry, wherein glass sheers support solar cells to give a clean energy solution and glass fibers are used to produce insulation for homes.

Yet, we see advantages in the design industry as well: Glass melting is being decarbonized and glass products are being safely recycled. Glass remains crucial for many designers, and we see the material used in many of our daily objects such as tableware and decorations. In fact, many companies are referring to our time period as the Glass Age. Here, we've assembled a few of our favorite glass creations released in 2023 and discuss the eco-side of their processes.

READ: Murano, Inside a Glass Furnace Factory and the Family Biz with Micheluzzi

Courtesy of Wave Murano Glass.

Wave Murano Glass, the Most Carbon-neutral Factory in Murano

At Wave Murano Glass, Roberto Beltrami serves as both the master glassblower and main designer. He frequently works with other brands and interior designers, reveling in the challenge of realizing their glass projects. He's always prepared to suggest alternative solutions to ensure success. Roberto's youth and scientific background allow the team at Wave to create collections that are technically advanced and modern while remaining committed to traditional Murano glass techniques—as we see in the new collection Plume.

"In addition to our scientific approach, we also employ several unique techniques that set our work apart from others in the industry. One example is our Anorlo technique, which we invented to create mesmerizing light beam optical games that refract and distort light on the surfaces near the object, turning the piece itself into a modifier for its surrounding environment," Roberto Beltrami, founder and glass master, said in an interview with ArchExpo e-Magazine.

The Plume Vase Collection shows how Murano glass art can have a contemporary twist. Each vase reveals its own unique character, exuding a bubbly energy that plays with the light in any room. Roberto Beltrami masterfully formed the shapes with his skilled hands, providing a testament to the elegance of Murano glass-making in the smallest details.



Plume Vase Collection. Courtesy of Wave Murano Glass.

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On an environmental note, Wave recycles part of the leftovers in order to create architectural panels and bespoke options they sell in the factory shop and online store. Since glass products are 100% recyclable, glass as a material can enhance sustainability efforts.

"We are also constantly exploring new ways to reduce our carbon footprint, and we have recently installed the first high-efficiency electric furnace in Murano to start the R&D process for decarbonized glass melting. Additionally, we are gradually switching all our furnaces from the classic inefficient Murano furnace architecture to high-tech, advanced American-made gas glass melting furnaces that are 700-800% more efficient. This enables us to become the most carbon-neutral factory in all of Murano."

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