



Robert Greubel (left) and Stephen Forsey (right) on either side of Emmanuel Vuille.

Greubel Forsey moves into eminently representative premises

Last September, the inventor-watchmakers known for developing sophisticated horological complications defied the crisis by uniting their headquarters and workshops at a single site in La Chaux-de-Fonds.



DOUBLE TOURBILLON TECHNIQUE

Amid the welter of tourbillons that flood the market each year, those of Greubel Forsey stand out from the crowd thanks to the inventive genius they embody. This year's release is certainly no exception to the rule, since the Double Tourbillon Technique is a case study in precision mechanical watchmaking. First of all, its original architecture enables total immersion into the stunning complexity of this watch mechanism. The sapphire crystal acts as a portal through which to observe the mesmerizing workings of the intricately interlocking parts. The eye is naturally drawn from one gear to the next, lingering to enable careful observation of each separate element. While the heart of the timepiece is undoubtedly the very first fundamental invention from Greubel Forsey, the Double Tourbillon 30° mechanism, other elements have been integrated in order to perpetuate the art of horology and contributing to its 21st century development – including the four fast-rotating co-axial barrels guaranteeing 120 hours of autonomy that can be admired in action while winding and unwinding. Coupled to these barrels is a visible spherical differential rotating and driving the power reserve indicator.



The daring architecture of the building makes it appear to have literally burst out of the ground.

For Greubel Forsey, the year 2009 has featured an exciting event despite the gloomy economic climate: the inauguration of new premises reflecting the company's high-tech vocation and yet respectful of its roots. Located a stone's throw from the Eplatures airport, the new building is now home to the four companies created by Robert Greubel and Stephen Forsey and jointly run by the two founders along with CEO Emmanuel Vuille: Greubel Forsey, CompliTime, CT Design and CT Time. In all, around one hundred people have moved to the new premises from the Ancien Manège and other sites where the Greubel Forsey adventure began. Vividly reflecting the nature of Greubel Forsey watches, the new workshops are designed to be a concentrated blend of technological feats displaying a distinctive soul and underlining the link between past, present and future. It is composed of two buildings. The first is a 17th century listed farmhouse renovated by Mr. Gilles Tissot (an expert in the renovation of Neuchâtel-style historical buildings) and which is to serve as a reception area. It also houses the Unique Timepieces workshop, a showcase for the brand's creative excellence. The reno-

vation work preserved the most important decorative and symbolic features of the former farmhouse, such as the vaulted cellar, a former open fireplace, a carved doorway dating back to 1668 and a sundial.

The entire main building which houses the development and production premises was designed by architect Pierre Studer, and is directly linked to the farm. Its original shape reflects a geographical fold as seen in the topography of the Jura mountains, further enhanced by a 'green' or garden roof. This building is the first double-skin environment-friendly construction in the region and the glass outer walls create a natural thermal buffer zone. In summer, the air circulates to create a cool breeze; while in winter it is enclosed to serve as additional insulation. The cutting-edge ventilation systems ensure a comfortable working environment for the watchmakers.

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INVENTION PIECE 3

As its name implies, this model pays homage to the third invention by Robert Greubel and Stephen Forsey: the single tourbillon cage inclined at a 25° angle and performing a rapid rotation in 24 seconds. Stemming from research on the Double Tourbillon 30°, this utterly original mechanism guarantees the watch maximum efficiency and optimal performance on the wrist by keeping moments of inertia to an absolute minimum. The totally unconventional dial display features four gold plates that serve as a base for the indicators and are engraved with a portion of a personal message from Robert Greubel and Stephen Forsey. By providing an insight into the complex process involved in creating the extraordinarily consistent high-performance mechanism, this message reveals the true nature of the inventor-watchmakers' philosophy and of the powerful and lasting links established with the owner of this exceptional timepiece.