

Rado True Round x Les Couleurs® Le Corbusier® Special Edition

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Disruptive, captivating, iconic. Three words that characterise the work of Le Corbusier, the Swiss-born design visionary, whose unique and striking approach to architecture has been captured in a new collection of special-edition Rado timepieces – which may also be described by those same three words.



Launch of Rado True Round x Les Couleurs® Le Corbusier® Special Edition

The new releases are the latest output in a long-running collaboration between Rado and Les Couleurs Suisse®. For Rado, known as the Master of Materials, Le Corbusier's bold designs and use of modern materials and statement colours strike a chord with its own approach to watchmaking and appetite for innovation. So far, the partnership has seen the release of 12 Rado watches, which focused on deploying contribution to modern architecture – which set the tone for the then-emergent Brutalist style – with each watch referencing one of his most epic projects.

Minimalist elegance

The first watch pays tribute to La Cité Radieuse, a vast, concrete apartment building in Marseille, France, completed in 1952, and which reimagined modern urban living. This special

edition features an abstract inspiration of the building's rough-cast, board-formed concrete, known as *béton-brut*, laser engraved in its high-tech ceramic dial. This offers a highly intricate interpretation of the concrete's innate texture, with each minute detail intriguingly reflecting the light.

Each watch in the series combines four shades from the Polychromie Architectural. First introduced in 1931, and extended in 1959, the palette was identified by the great designer as being eminently architectural, naturally harmonious and able to be combined in any way.

This first watch is presented in Ivory White, reference 4320B, across its monobloc high-tech ceramic case and matching crown and bracelet, telling a story of pure, minimalist elegance. It is the first time that this specific colour has been deployed in high-tech ceramic. It's worth remembering that the colour runs right through the material – the final hue is not just a coating or finish, but acquired during sintering, when it is heated to 1,450°C. Faithfully recreating an exact shade with this complex methodology is no small thing and took Rado's experts years to perfect. This timepiece is complemented by hands in Lucent Sky Blue (32021), Luminous Ultramarine Blue (32020) and Light Ultramarine Blue (32023).

Monochromatic power

The second watch honours the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the USA. In a region so closely associated with American history, the Center's bold aesthetic was a stark contrast against the leafy squares and Georgian architecture of Harvard University. As the only building Le Corbusier designed in North America – and one of his last, completed in 1963 – it is part of the nation's cultural heritage.

An abstract evocation of its moulded concrete facade features in the dial of this special edition, similarly laser engraved in high-tech ceramic. Showcased in Iron Grey – specifically 32010 from the Polychromie Architectural – the piece conveys the monochromatic power of raw concrete, a material which allowed for the more disruptive, sculptural forms so associated with Le Corbusier. The watch's lacquered hands offer a dramatic juxtaposition against the dial, in three additional colours from his palette: Cream White (32001), Powerful Orange (4320S) and Slightly Greyed English Green (32041).

Monumental design

The final watch in the series celebrates Le Corbusier's capacity to conceptualise ideas on a truly epic scale through his visionary plan for Chandigarh, India. Conceived as a completely new capital for Punjab, he imagined a more rational, efficient city with a geometric 'grid' layout, shared principles for architectural design, and nature carefully integrated – a design legacy that would shape urban planning throughout the rest of the 20th century.

This special edition includes a dial design inspired by detail from the Palace of Assembly, one of three public buildings known as the Capitol Complex, completed in 1962. An abstract inspiration of a section of this monumental building's facade is laser engraved in the dial, within a darker palette still. Here, the high-tech ceramic monobloc case, crown and bracelet appear in Ivory Black – 4320E from the Polychromie Architectural – accompanied by lacquered hands in Powerful Orange (4320S), Emerald Green (4320G) and Olive Green (4320F).

Sensuous and scratch-proof

The reverse of all three watches features 63 digitally printed

colour strips – representing the full spectrum of the Polychromie Architectural. They encircle the view of the Rado calibre R763 automatic movement within, which can be seen through a flat sapphire crystal that features the logo of Le Corbusier at its centre. The colour strips also decorate the presentation box each watch is supplied in.

On the wrist, the watch's high-tech ceramic construction feels impossibly light and beautifully comfortable – the material quickly matches body temperature – while the material's sensuous qualities are magnetically alluring. The almost scratch-proof characteristics of high-tech ceramic lend it unrivalled durability, just like Le Corbusier's beloved concrete, while the Rado calibre R763 automatic movement's 80-hour power reserve – and waterresistance to 5 bar (50 metres) – give it astonishing practicality.

This architecturally inspired collection, pairing the father of modernism with the watchmaking vision of Rado, Master of Materials, represents a poignant new chapter in the story of Swiss design.

Rado x Design

Creativity is the lifeblood of Rado and has long been a part of the brand's identity. Over the years, it has been involved in more than thirty collaborations with some of the world's most visionary artists and designers, including luminaries such as Le Corbusier. Each project serves to open Rado to new horizons. Accordingly, its passion for design shares pride of place with the brand's unending mission to discover and develop innovative materials, and is at the core of the brand's identity, expressed as 'Design You Can Feel'.

About Le Corbusier

Born Charles-Édouard Jeanneret in 1887, in the Swiss watch capital La Chaux-de-Fonds, Le Corbusier adopted his famous

pseudonym in 1920, reflecting his own belief in reinvention and a trend for artists at the time to be known by a single name. That spark of maverick originality runs through the full gamut of his output, which included urban planning, furniture design, painting and writing. While he also enjoyed an earlier career as a watch engraver, it is arguably his architectural legacy that cemented his reputation as a pioneer – indeed as the 'father' of modern architecture – with many of his disruptive, captivating designs still celebrated today.

About the collaboration

Today Les Couleurs Suisse® is exclusively mandated by the Fondation Le Corbusier to license the great designer's original palette of architectural colours, the Polychromy Architectural (www.lescouleurs.ch/en/thecolours/le-corbusier). This dynamic colour system with a total of 63 colours, developed by the father of modernism and international design and style in 1931 and 1959, is to this day considered the ultimate system for colouring architecture and interiors. As both Rado and Corbusier are considered masters of materials, it makes sense that Rado has introduced Corbusier's colours in high-tech ceramic.

Rado True Round x Les Couleurs® Le Corbusier® Special Edition

Ref.	R27049012
Movement	Rado calibre R763, automatic, 25 jewels, 3 hands, 80-hour power reserve, antimagnetic Nivachron™ hairspring, exceeds standard test requirements from 3 to 5 positions for higher accuracy

Case	Matt Ivory White 4320B high-tech ceramic case and crown, monobloc construction Titanium case back with digital printing on sapphire crystal, featuring Le Corbusier Polychromie Architectural colour strips
	Curved sapphire crystal with anti-reflective coating on both faces
	Water-resistant to 5 bar (50m)
Dial	Ivory White 4320B high-tech ceramic Laser-engraved abstraction of a concrete surface found at La Cité Radieuse, Marseille, France
Hands	Lucent Sky Blue 32021 hour hand
	Luminous Ultramarine Blue 32020 minute hand
	Light Ultramarine Blue 32023 second hand
Bracelet	Matt Ivory White 4320B high-tech ceramic
	Titanium 3-fold clasp
Dimensions	40.0 x 47.3 x 10.4 (W x L x H in mm)

Rado True Round x Les Couleurs® Le Corbusier® Special Edition

Ref.	R27048162
Movement	Rado calibre R763, automatic, 25 jewels, 3 hands, 80-hour power reserve, antimagnetic Nivachron™ hairspring, exceeds standard test requirements from 3 to 5 positions for higher accuracy

Case	<p>Matt Iron Grey 32010 high-tech ceramic case and crown, monobloc construction</p> <p>Titanium case back with digital printing on sapphire crystal, featuring Le Corbusier Polychromie Architectural colour strips</p>
	<p>Curved sapphire crystal with anti-reflective coating on both faces</p>
	<p>Water-resistant to 5 bar (50m)</p>
Dial	<p>Iron Grey 32010 high-tech ceramic</p> <p>Laser-engraved abstraction of a concrete surface found at the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA</p>
Hands	<p>Cream White 32001 lacquered hour hand</p>
	<p>Powerful Orange 4320S lacquered minute hand</p>
	<p>Slightly Greyed English Green 32041 lacquered second hand</p>
Bracelet	<p>Matt Iron Grey 32010 high-tech ceramic</p>
	<p>Titanium 3-fold clasp</p>
Dimensions	<p>40.0 x 47.3 x 10.4 (W x L x H in mm)</p>

Rado True Round x Les Couleurs® Le Corbusier® Special Edition

Ref.	R27111162
Movement	Rado calibre R763, automatic, 25 jewels, 3 hands, 80-hour power reserve, antimagnetic Nivachron™ hairspring, exceeds standard test requirements from 3 to 5 positions for higher accuracy
Case	Matt Ivory Black 4320E high-tech ceramic case and crown, monobloc construction Titanium case back with digital printing on sapphire crystal, featuring Le Corbusier Polychromie Architectural colour strips
	Curved sapphire crystal with anti-reflective coating on both faces
	Water-resistant to 5 bar (50 metres)

Dial	Ivory Black 4320E high-tech ceramic Laser-engraved abstraction of a concrete surface found at the Palace of Assembly, Chandigarh, India
Hands	Powerful Orange 4320S lacquered hour hand
	Emerald Green 4320G lacquered minute hand
	Olive Green 4320F lacquered second hand
Bracelet	Ivory Black 4320E high-tech ceramic
	Titanium 3-fold clasp
Dimensions	40.0 x 47.3 x 10.4 (W x L x H in mm)

