SOLITAIRE

THE FINE ART OF JEWELLERY

ASIA PACIFIC EDITION

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LOVE DIAMONDS
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June – July 2016

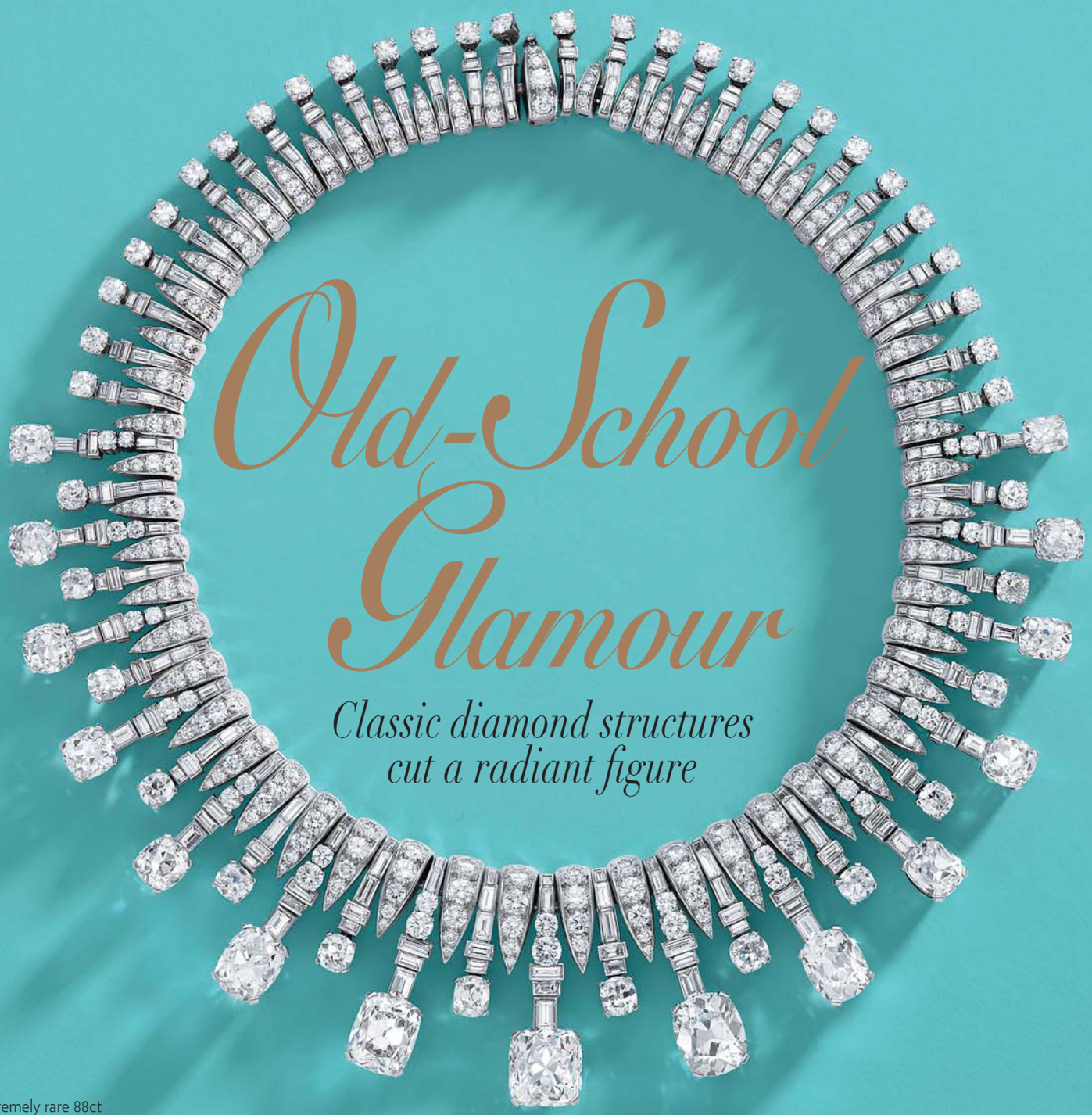
The Diamond Edition

CLASSIC DIAMOND CUTS

by Preeta Agarwal

Old-School Glamour

Classic diamond structures cut a radiant figure



Extremely rare 88ct diamond necklace featuring 15 cushion-cut diamonds in graduating size, circa 1930, BULGARI

Image courtesy of Bonhams. Copyright Mark French

FIRST ROW FROM TOP
3ct asscher-cut diamond pendant, Courtesy of BONHAMS. Copyright Mark French

Diamond earrings with 22.65 carats of oval-, pear-, asscher-, and marquise-cut diamonds, GEMS PAVILION

Platinum ring with an asscher-cut 5.75ct diamond, GUBELIN JEWELLERY

Earrings featuring asscher-cut 699ct colourless diamonds, HANS D. KRIEGER

Pavo Studs in 18k white gold set with Royal Asscher-Cut diamond and pavé of brilliants, ROYAL ASSCHER

SECOND ROW FROM TOP
Waterlily ring featuring a cushion-cut Forevermark diamond, THEO FENNELL

Elysium ring with a 5.04ct cushion-cut diamond, PARTRIDGE JEWELLERS

Blue Frost ring featuring a 1.13ct natural fancy greyish blue cushion-cut diamond, LJ WEST DIAMONDS

Originally designed centuries ago, the asscher, cushion, and rose cuts are so powerful in their construction that, to this day, they still stand out amongst an array of brilliant cuts. Sleek and clean styles — apparent in the recent popularity of princess- and emerald-cut diamonds — also led to the revival of these three vintage cuts.

Asscher Cut

An older cousin of the princess and emerald cuts is the asscher cut. A reminder of the Art Deco movement, the asscher cut with 58 facets is square like the princess cut, but has its edges chamfered like the emerald cut. Emblematic of the Amsterdam-based Asscher family, famed for cutting the 530.20ct Cullinan, the asscher cut was designed by Joseph Asscher in 1902.

Heightened radiance as compared to step cut and a striking shape make the asscher cut stand out and preferred in a prong setting. For investment, many opt for nothing less than a VS2 in a G colour, as the open table and its step cut facets highlight every inclusion in detail. Giving the cut an added brilliance is the recent addition to its legacy — the Royal Asscher cut with 74 facets, created and patented by the descendants of the Asscher family, Edward and Joop. If its shape and cut were considered bold back then, the asscher cut is now in vogue and taking Hollywood by storm. With celebrities like Reese Witherspoon and Jessica Alba sporting asscher-cut engagement rings, this vintage cut is definitely back in style after decades of absence.

Cushion Cut

If the asscher cut exudes confidence, then its close relative, the cushion cut, radiates a more romantic appeal. The sudden popularity of the cushion cut makes one think that it was a new entrant in the market. The truth is, it is an antique cutting style that has gone under a revival. Also known as old-mine cut with over 300-year legacy, the cushion cut has been designed and re-designed with time. Thus, one can find various versions of this cut in the market, some with 58 facets, and the modern versions with 64 facets. The pillow-like soft shape of the cushion cut is a visual union of the princess and oval cuts.

With celebrities like Reese Witherspoon and Jessica Alba sporting asscher-cut engagement rings, this vintage cut is definitely back in style after decades of absence

Delphine diamond necklace from the Paradiso collection featuring a combination of over 200 pieces of marquise-, asscher-, round- and pear- shaped diamonds, DEGEM

The cushion cut radiates a more romantic appeal

The cushion cut has also made it to the list of legendary gemstones like the blue *Hope Diamond* (45.52 carats), the *Regent Diamond* (140.5 carats), the yellow *Tiffany Diamond* (128.54 carats), and the largest cut blue sapphire in the world, the 423ct *Logan Sapphire* at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. Catching up fast on the list of existing engagement ring favourites, the cushion cut in simple prong or diamond halo settings wins the hearts of celebrities like Jennifer Garner, Miley Cyrus, and tennis sensation Catherine Wozniacki. A cut difficult to find and very tricky to buy, a good quality cushion cut magnifies most inclusions. This cut also appears larger than its actual weight, thus making it even more rare.

Rose Cut

Another cut that evokes romantic vintage feel is the rose cut. As the name suggests, the facets resemble the petals of a rose. Symbolising love, rose was the preferred cut for engagement rings back in early 1500s. But they suddenly went out of fashion in 1900s and were replaced by brilliant cuts. With flat bottoms and dome shape on top, rose cuts have less brilliance and sparkle and are very unique compared to other cuts. Available in squarish, oval, and pear shapes, this cut adds an instant antique heirloom feel to most jewellery. Years later, many jewellers innovate and re-create the rose cut, often adding thin layers of silver or gold at the bottom.

As most rose cuts were converted to brilliant cuts, vintage rose cuts are very hard to find these days. Many jewellers are now using the newly made rose cuts and re-telling stories from the past. But those with unique tastes are opting for rose cut engagement rings, just like Jennifer Aniston and Teresa Palmer. Often mistaken for a new cut in the market, this beautiful cut comes with centuries of legacies and wonderful stories behind it. One that's perfect as an heirloom piece.

Symbolising love, the rose was the preferred cut for engagement rings back in early 1500s

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP CENTRE
Irresistible ring with marquise, pear, and round diamonds along with rose-cut diamonds in rose gold, ENTICE

Ring with rose-cut diamonds, IVY NEW YORK

Irresistible ear studs with marquise, pear, and round diamonds along with rose-cut diamonds in rose gold, ENTICE

Ring with pink spinel and rose-cut diamond in 18k gold, IVY NEW YORK