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Anike Tyrrell

J Hill's Standard Founder

With the aim of making cut crystal glass more usable, it shouldn't be all that surprising that J Hill's Standard's elegant Elements Low Glass was inspired by an everyday item. A cheap Spanish wine glass bought in Skibbereen, to be specific. Anike Tyrrell explains that "too precious to use" was a problem they wanted to avoid.

"The Spanish glass shape is very versatile. You can use it for wine, whiskey, orange juice... It won't topple over and can be used by children as easily as adults. It fits in better with our more informal current lifestyles where people like to dress their table in a way that reflects good design values."

Using a tumbler for wine was a new experience for Anike on her first trip to Spain in the early 1990s, while sailing from Kinsale to Gibraltar. "I loved the informality of it. We stopped in many ports on the way, and it was always there amidst delicious tapas."

Dutch collaborators Scholten & Baijings were enthusiastic about the idea from the start. After Anike laboured over the brief, she met them in their Amsterdam studio during a snowstorm. "The drawings from that time are wonderful and a prized record of our beginnings. They were beautiful in their own right and the four years of work developing the whole idea suddenly had form. A good moment." As Stefan Scholten and Carole Baijings normally work with colour, the frosted or unpolished geometric bands are their way of building textural colour on the glass.

For J Hill's Standard, collaboration is vital. "The glass industry is under pressure globally, and it is important for its survival that we collaborate. Each country tends to have its speciality in terms of glass, and there is much to learn from working together."

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