



SCHONBEK®

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Schonbek 518-563-7500

**New LIBERTE, BIRMINGHAM, LUCIA and VESUVIO from Schonbek
Open Armatures, Fewer Crystals and Sophisticated Arrangements Create a new Kind of Confidence in
Crystal Chandeliers**

Plattsburgh, NY, January 15, 2010: Schonbek is known for their crystal-encrusted, hand-crafted, intensely ornate chandeliers. Now they're taking traditional forms and giving them a lighter touch with the introduction of four new chandeliers that offer an entirely new take on crystal lighting. "Many people want the impact, beauty and heritage value of a hand-crafted crystal chandelier, but are intimidated by the drama of all that sparkle," says Andy Schuyler, design manager at Schonbek. "When we designed these chandeliers, we used a restrained hand, fewer but larger crystals, and draped the swags and strands to focus attention on the inherent beauty of the metal framework and give each crystal plenty of room to shine."

Liberte is sophisticated and classic, with oversized drops painstakingly arranged over an open, lantern-style framework. This old-world shape, enhanced with crystal bobeches, evokes a country French style aesthetic that makes them especially at home in more casual settings. Available in 7 different kinds of trim from rock crystal to clear (STRASS® Swarovski® Crystal), and in 14 different finishes from the warmth of heirloom bronze to the modernity of Ferro black, as well as 5 different sizes, there are endless opportunities to personalize the interplay of crystal, structure, and light.

Birmingham's muscular armature branches off from a dramatic, hand-cut center column of crystal, and is counter-balanced by a delicate patterning of leaves along with small swags and slender icicles of crystal. Each chandelier is a model of ancient craft techniques: they are brass casted by the finest Italian craftsmen; crystals are cut and polished using 500-year-old methods; the central crystal column is mouth-blown and then hand cut in the Czech Republic. The beauty of Birmingham is available in 14 finishes and 5 sizes of chandeliers, as well as matching wall sconces and table lamps, for mouth-watering beauty in every room.

Lucia and **Vesuvio** take traditional chandelier forms and give them a lighter, more feminine feel. Using a restrained touch, slender structures are festooned with crystal drops in a contemporary cut and draped with delicate swags that fall freely from the crown. This resulting design is open, airy, confident and fun. Lucia and Vesuvio are available in 6 finishes, 5 sizes, and hand-cut crystal so they can fit almost any decor, from the warm tones of an adobe home in the Southwest, to the spare space of a Manhattan loft.

"These new chandeliers offer designers exciting options," notes Schuyler. "Classic shapes, rendered with a more restrained approach to crystal ornamentation, make them especially appropriate for settings where chandeliers may never have been considered before, such as professional offices, more casual residences and restaurants, even weekend and country homes."

Since its 1870 founding in Bohemia, Schonbek has put old-world, hand-built craftsmanship, sophisticated design, innovative engineering, and the latest manufacturing technology into every crystal chandelier they make. In casinos and palaces, hotel lobbies and places of worship, bathrooms, living rooms, kitchens and private quarters, nothing dazzles quite like a Schonbek.

Schonbek. Bringing space to life with crystal and light.