

# 038

RED HOT ★ NEW

URWERK 103.5 AND BLACKBIRD LIMITED EDITIONS BY WEI KOH

# STEALTH FIGHTERS



URWERK'S 103.3 Blackbird features a PVD-coated platinum case

# 040

In a world filled with increasingly proliferate independent brands, URWERK is distinguished by the tremendous impact it has made on the consumer landscape. URWERK's head watchmaker Felix Baumgartner and chief designer Martin Frei were the first to merge real haute de gamme watchmaking skills with their love for popular culture. Past watches have featured cases based on Han Solo's *Millennium Falcon*, as well as the Sputnik satellite. In so doing, they have positioned themselves as the primary bridge between the traditions of watchmaking and the world of tomorrow. While both the UR-101 and 102 watches have cult followings, it was with the UR-103 floating hour watch that the duo achieved massive commercial and critical success.

While the initial inspiration for URWERK's 103 series of watches was the architecture of an ancient city, the model line has evolved to capture the spirit of aviation and jet plane design. URWERK's latest offering, the 103.5, as well as the limited edition UR-103 Blackbird, solidify the relationship with high performance mechanical birds of prey. The first aviation-oriented 103 made was the Junker Unique Piece, modeled after the aircraft of the same name. The massive crown on this watch was tooled to resemble a jet exhaust while the case received engraving modeled after the Junker's framework. The floating hour satellites were enlarged to resemble the plane's landing gear.

New for 2006 and continuing the aviation theme is URWERK's Open Cockpit 103.5 limited edition. This new watch features a more aggressive engraving over the top (hood section) of its platinum case. The numerals on the four floating hour satellites are filled with high alert orange Super Luminova.



URWERK'S 103.5

The minute scale on the dial is also treated with this same material. Flanking each side of the case are new glass windows unveiling the mystic inner workings of the Peseaux 7001-driven titanium carriage. URWERK's 103.5 will be made in an edition of 50 pieces.

Another achingly gorgeous wrist machine from URWERK is the stunning limited edition Blackbird. This jet black rocket of a timepiece is named for one of aviation's most legendary spy planes, the SR-71 Blackbird. The Blackbird was a long range reconnaissance jet that could fly at a staggering Mach 3.2 and is to this day largely unmatched in performance. The Blackbird was also the US Air Force's first successful experiment with a then heavily classified material known as titanium. The genesis of the Blackbird occurred in the mid-1950s when the US Air Force and the CIA decided to replace the U-2 spy plane with an aircraft that would travel much faster and higher to avoid enemy defenses. Lockheed, the developer of the U-2 was also given the contract to develop this supersonic aircraft. The project was called ARCHANGEL and Skunk Works, a secret division of the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, went through 12 design proposals before they reached their final design. Sheathed entirely in a jet black PVD-coated case, the URWERK Blackbird is, in the same way, the ultimate high horological stealth weapon for the wrist. ★

URWERK's Junkers 103.1 was the brand's first aviation-theme watch