The shape of the proposed structure, takes inspiration from the diagram of the famous Pareto Principle, or the 80/20 rule, which states that for many phenomena, 80% of the result comes from 20% of the effort. The principle has been named after Vilfredo Pareto, an Italian economist who, back in 1895, noticed that about 80% of several countries' land belonged to 20% of the country's population.

Since the shape of the 80/20 rule diagram resembled a champagne glass, it's been referred to as the Champagne Glass Distribution or Effect ever since, sometimes as a expression of (dis)proportion or inequality.