



RISING STAR



Desjeux Delaye

A French decorating duo that's a veritable force of nature



Perfect Pairing

Dorothee Delaye and Daphne Desjeux craft stylish spaces with a strong appreciation for the past. Recent Parisian projects include the renovation of an Avenue Victor Hugo apartment (BELOW LEFT AND RIGHT) and a flat in the Eighth Arrondissement (NEAR RIGHT). See Resources.



★ **WHO:** Dorothee Delaye and Daphne Desjeux's paths did not cross until seven years ago, although both were born and raised in Paris and captivated by art, design, and the city's famous flea markets at a young age.

★ **WHAT:** Stylish, airy rooms that are a seamless synthesis of classic and modern, replete with deeply saturated colors, clean lines, and natural materials such as marble and hammered brass.

★ **WHEN:** After independently leaving careers in media and casually helping friends and family with decorating projects, Delaye and Desjeux each enrolled as students at Paris's fine- and applied-arts academy École Boulle in 2011. "I realized that I needed to do what I wanted, even if it was a challenge," Desjeux explains of her decision to get serious about interior design. By chance, she sat next to Delaye in class, and less than two months later the pair decided to start a decorating firm. "We got to know each other at the perfect moment," says Delaye. "Starting a new professional life in your 30s is a little overwhelming, so we conquered it together," Desjeux adds.

★ **WHERE:** Recently completed commissions in Paris include a large flat that features a custom modular blue velvet sofa and Desjeux Delaye-designed light fixtures in the living room, as well as the renovation of the 36-room La Planque hotel, for which the duo created dreamy interiors that make guests "feel like they're at a friend's chic country home," Desjeux says.

★ **WHY:** "Expressing our creativity and making clients feel happy and comfortable in their home," Delaye says, is the end goal, although "taking bold design risks" is equally important, adds Desjeux. No matter what the project, "we approach each job with a new spirit and always aim to maintain a space's soul." —*Caitlin St John*

“Interior design enables us to express our creativity and make clients feel happy”

PORTRAIT AND EIGHTH-ARRONDISSEMENT: BÉNÉDICTE AUSSET DRUMMOND; AVENUE VICTOR HUGO: PAULINE LE GOFF