



# THE DECOR

SUMMER 2022

## THE A-LIST ISSUE

THE 101 TOP TALENTS OF 2022  
PLUS:  
WHERE TO GO TO LIVE THE LIST

THE POETRY OF PAINTED POOLS  
DECORATING WITH CITRUS  
ASHE LEANDRO'S SKY-HIGH NEW YORK STYLE



SO COURANT

# THE EYE HAS TO TRAVEL

And as the world reopens, we're happy to go along with it—starting with suite dreams in Paris.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY  
**SEAN SANTIAGO**  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
**BENJAMIN BOUCHET**

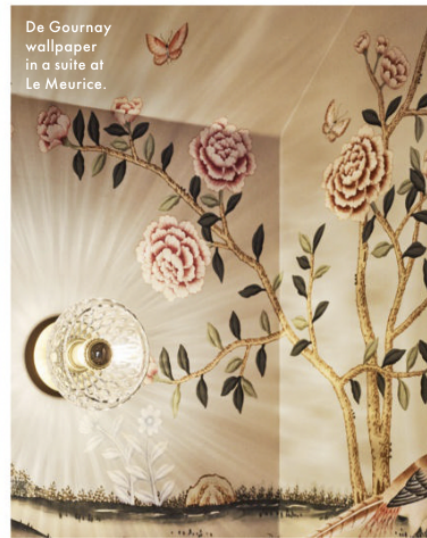


A suite at Le Meurice, a Parisian Dorchester Collection hotel, remodeled by the studio of Lally & Berger. [dorchestercollection.com](http://dorchestercollection.com)

Sleep mask by By Daria Day; perfume by Ormaie; linen spray by Frédéric Malle.



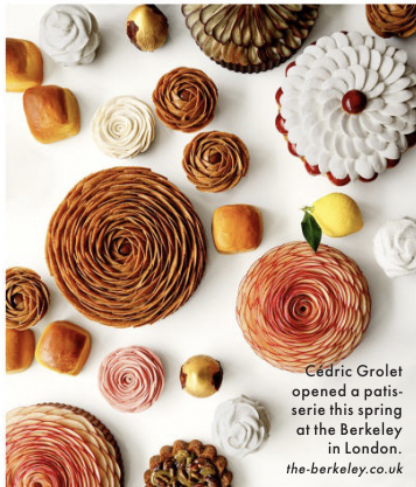
Throw by Hermès; suitcase by L/Uniform; sunglasses by Aude Herouard; notebook by Octaevo.



De Gournay wallpaper in a suite at Le Meurice.







Designer Luc Berger is a soft-spoken 30-something with an unassuming demeanor that belies his accomplishments: We are, after all, taking coffee at Le Meurice, a hotel that is—at least partly—his own design. Berger, along with his partner in business and life, Margaux Lally, is in the midst of a pandemic-spanning project to update guest rooms and suites at the famed Parisian hotel.

While the ground-floor public spaces bear the stamp of two earlier Philippe Starck interventions, Lally & Berger recently renovated *chambres* on the fourth and fifth floors of the hotel as well as the penthouse (work on the third-floor rooms and suites will tentatively begin this fall). Dating back to 1835, Le Meurice could easily have stayed steeped in its past, yet the result of the design duo's efforts is both considered and comfortable. "We tried to keep the classical spirit of Le Meurice but made it warmer and softer," Berger says, "with details from the 19th century set against contemporary lighting and color schemes."

The hotel now strikes a studied balance between novelty (guests can enjoy fine dining under a hand-painted canvas ceiling) and understated luxury (rooms feature Jouffre upholstery) that is key to what *les vacances* mean now. "People still have the same needs and desires, but the domestic component is stronger than before," says designer Fabrizio Casiraghi, who sees his

## Balancing novelty and understated luxury is key to what *les vacances* mean now.

hospitality projects as "holistic experiences" encompassing scents, sounds, and sights. "People now expect residential touches even in a hotel room, even at a restaurant," says Casiraghi. "A private, cozy atmosphere is preferable to a sensational one."

He would know. In the past two years, Casiraghi has overseen the design of Saint-Tropez's Hôtel La Ponche as well as the Bellevue Hotel, opening later this year in London, a capital that has recently found itself at the top of many an itinerary.

Design-wise, there's plenty in the posh West End to warrant a visit: the revamped Beaumont in Mayfair; drinks at the Connaught's newest bar, the Red Room; or a tisane with pastry chef Cédric Grolet, who got his start at Le Meurice under Alain Ducasse and has just opened his first patisserie outside France at the Berkeley in London.

Back at Le Meurice, I am faced with a choice: unwind in my redesigned suite or take a stroll through the Jardin des Tuileries at the hotel's doorstep. There will be time for both, of course. Now I can have my gâteau and eat it, too. ■

