

ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

THE INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AUTHORITY

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WORLD

**MEG
RYAN**
AT HOME IN
MANHATTAN

SPECIAL SECTION:
**DREAM
KITCHENS**

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STYLISH IDEAS





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GET PLASTERED



Belgian artisan Eddy Dankers, a longtime collaborator with designer Axel Vervoordt, introduces his earthy, all-natural paints and plaster finishes to the States



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1. A palette of colors from painter Eddy Dankers's new line, Domingue Architectural Finishes. 2. Dankers applying plaster to a board. 3. A wall of pale blue showcases the finishes' chalky effect. 4. A living room designed by Axel Vervoordt, a long-standing champion of Dankers's.

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Belgian designer Axel Vervoordt is known for conjuring minimalist interiors with a romantic sense of memory, spaces where wood and stone battered by time join a centuries-spanning array of art and antiques. And then there are the walls.

With matte, mottled surfaces, they could be mistaken for the happy accidents of age. More often than not, however, they are the freshly completed work of Eddy Dankers, a painter and fellow Belgian. As Vervoordt notes, "Every project we complete together is another step in our research to make things look and feel as though they've always existed."

Now, part of Dankers's tool kit is available in the U.S. In partnership with Chateau Domingue, an architectural antiques showroom in Houston, he has developed Domingue Architectural Finishes—a line of lime wash, mineral paint, and decorative plaster. "My family has been making our own paints and plasters for centuries," says Dankers, who inherited his business from his father and has traced his family's profession back to 1637. "Lime paint is the mother of all paint. The ancient Romans, ancient Egyptians, and pre-Columbian people all used it."

With 140 shades derived exclusively from mineral pigments and developed with color consultant Eve Ashcraft, the lime wash offers Dankers's trademark hazy hues, telltale brushstrokes abounding. The paint, meanwhile, provides even saturation. And the plasters can be used for everything from textured finishes to a final skim coat. (Prices start at \$29 for a liter of mineral paint.)

An added benefit is that the products are inherently healthy. "There are no chemicals or VOCs," says Ruth Gay, owner of

Chateau Domingue. "They're completely natural and allow walls to breathe."

Dankers (who likens rooms coated in standard paints to "living in a plastic bag") sees the collection as a philosophical shift. "I have a different view of what paint can be," he says. "It's been my dream to bring that here." *dominguefinishes.com* —TIM MCKEOUGH



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