

MALAYSIA TITLER HOMES

M A L A Y S I A T A T L E R

# HOMES

THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO LUXURIOUS LIVING



## Spring Fever

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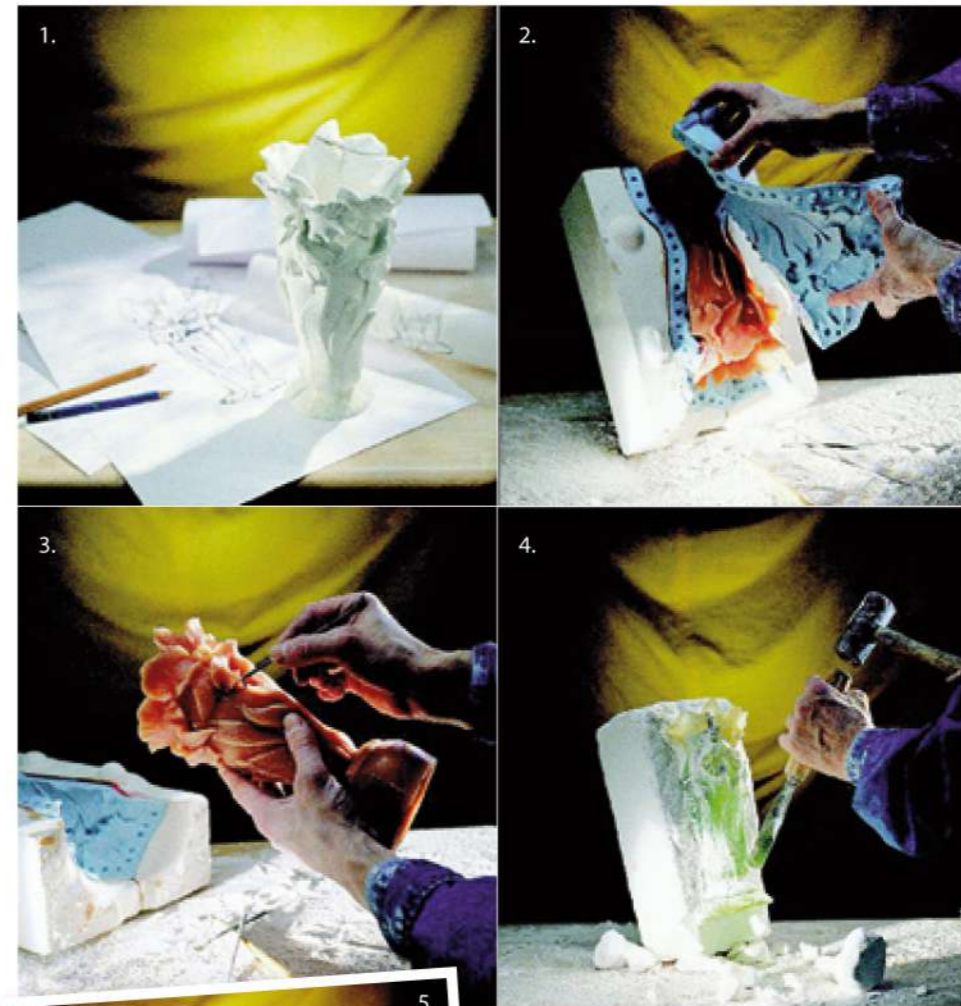
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DAUM by Jean-Baptiste Sibertin-Blanc



**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:** Numbered steps indicate the pâte de verre process; Daum is available locally at Suen Jewellers, Bangsar; Fleur by Sibertin-Blanc for Daum

**FROM TOP:** Cosmos from Daum is one of Sibertin-Blanc's works; The Rototondo from Daum; Jean-Baptiste Sibertin-Blanc



**T**he words 'Art is the ultimate luxury,' greet one when they enter Daum's interactive and elegant website – a beautiful quote that reflects this French brand's philosophy. Known for their artistic sculptures on glass and crystal, Daum's reputation as one of the many major forces of the Art Nouveau movement in the early 1900s still instils awe among today's creative generation.

Part of Daum's success came from its manufacture of pâte de verre, a glass-making technique first used over 5,000 years ago, during the Egyptian period. Literally translated as glass paste, pâte de verre consists of coloured glass that is ground into fine powder and mixed with a fusing agent to form a paste. The paste can then be sculpted into a desired shape and when several colours are mixed, the final result has a mottled-finish appearance. Every pâte de verre piece produced is unique because of the subtle colour variations of the crushed crystal during the process of creation. Whether it is a fruit bowl, life-like animal sculpture or figurine, Daum's artistic wares are undoubtedly impressive and mesmerising due to the detailed process each item has to undergo.



Designer Jean-Baptiste Sibertin-Blanc joined Daum in 1999 as director of creation, and has remained as design director until today. His mission is to create original and delicate works with poetic meaning, fleshed out of his creative eye. In 2002, he received the 'Talent de l'Élégance au Sommet du Luxe' award in Paris for his collective works. Fascinated with architecture and the transformation capacity of materials, the methodical and patient Sibertin-Blanc is skilled at choosing the right material at the right time to suit a project – which is why he is familiar with the potential of pâte de cristal, which is the process of applying pâte de verre onto crystal. He has the deepest respect for his craft, he passionately states. "Each piece is handmade and worked on by 17 master craftsmen, specialists at what they do. They perform their tasks from beginning to end: plaster moulding, wax moulding, filling up grossil or crystal colour chips, breaking the mould, polishing, cutting and the final touching up. The entire process takes about two weeks to work on. These craftsmen, they have mastered this art for generations – from grandfather to son, and then to grandson," says Sibertin-Blanc, clearly displaying his admiration with expressive words.

Sibertin-Blanc designed the Rototondo,

produced in 2004, with 125 copies. It is a helicoid cup that has been meticulously streaked and opened right through the centre by a clear break. In the dancing light, this fine concentric texture expresses itself like a stained glass window, its airy design evoking the thought of a whirling sycamore seed. The polished ridges are a beauty to behold – sculpted painstakingly by the very same craftsman that Sibertin-Blanc entrusted his design to. "The beauty of working with crystal, especially pâte de cristal is that it can create multicolours and multitones that will give the designed piece a natural look and livelier façade," enthuses Sibertin-Blanc, undoubtedly more than satisfied with the final finish of the product.

Sibertin-Blanc discloses that his work is all about dimensions and details when creating the product, especially a material as delicate as crystal. "Unlike painting, sculpture needs more time to work on the 3D formation. But, I can proudly say the end result is satisfying as the viewer not only appreciates the 3D beauty by view, but they can touch and feel it," he shares warmly. Being a man passionate about his work, he considers the people who purchase his designs as art appreciators. "I would imagine that they see my designs as the ultimate luxury," says Sibertin-Blanc. 