

BOX (1), £8,334; PENCIL POT (2), £6,482; MAIL ORGANISER (3), £7,593; TAPE DISPENSER (4), £3,241; LETTER OPENER (5), £417, ALL BY JOSEPH DIRAND, FOR PUIFORCAT



BUREAU CHIEF

Joseph Dirand's luxe desk accessories for Puiforcat

When Joseph Dirand was young, his father took him to Jean Puiforcat's pink art deco home in the Basque Country, designed for the French silversmith in the 1920s by Luis Estevez. It left a lasting impression. In 2012, Dirand, now an architect, was commissioned to design the Puiforcat stand at the Maison & Objet fair in Paris; a year later, this led to an invitation to collaborate with the brand on a 'collection for the office of an architect'. Dirand was keen, not only because of his affinity with Jean Puiforcat, but also because he believed desk accessories were a neglected design opportunity.

Dirand set out to imagine how Jean Puiforcat might design such objects today. The nine items he has created - paper tray, letter opener, mail organiser, bookends, picture frame, box, pencil and note tray, pencil cup and tape dispenser - are straightforward and pure, with a nod towards the 1930s, which the architect refers to as the 'golden era of luxury'. Puiforcat himself had a vocabulary of circles, triangles and right angles; Dirand's 'Bureau d'Architecte' collection is a dialogue between round and square. And while Puiforcat often mingled wood, marble and leather with silver, Dirand has set up a conversation between

cool silver and warm gold, which reflect his shapes backwards and forwards.

Dirand's favourite piece is the tape dispenser, which was drawn in a single gesture. It's an oft-forgotten item, usually made in plastic and confined to the drawer, but here it becomes an object of desire. The roll of tape is hidden inside a gold wheel that floats via a chunky pin over the heavy silver base, one end square and one round.

The collection is limited edition, with the first set made for Dirand himself, shown here on his own white Calacatta marble desk. puiforcat.com; josephdirand.com