

How to Spot a Dalmas in the Field

Like birdwatchers, architecture lovers eventually develop an eye for the subtle clues that distinguish one architect from another.

RANGE Central Nice, especially the Carré d'Or and Promenade des Anglais. Also migrated to Cimiez Hill.	HABITAT Apartment buildings, luxury hotels, banks, casinos.
BEST TIME TO OBSERVE Anytime. Early morning or late afternoon for relief sculpture.	OFTEN CONFUSED WITH Sébastien Biasini. Look for a stronger Italian Renaissance influence.



Grand composition

Symmetrical fronts, often taking up a whole corner or block; buildings that "mark the landscape."



Roofline tells

Parisian-style slate domes on corner rotundas, zinc roofs with dormers, and balustrades hiding the main roof slope.



Monumental entrance and materials

Cut stone or fine stucco, smooth versus vermiculated bossage, and glazed ceramic or mosaic details at the door.



Balconies and ironwork

Long, continuous balconies on principal floors; varied wrought-iron railings per floor and corner oriels.



Decorative signature

Cupolas, stucco florals, garlands, and sculptural friezes.

While the specific decorative elements varied over the years, from floral and garland motifs to streamlined reliefs and mosaic tiles, the core features persisted throughout his career.