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Livingetc

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AND LET YOU BE MORE CREATIVE WITH YOUR ROOMS

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TRENDS NOW

HARD-WORKING
HOME OFFICES

THE BEST NEW
FABRIC LAUNCHES

PERFECTLY POISED

Paying homage to its classical roots but with a modern twist, this Parisian abode marries gutsy choices and quiet restraint beautifully



PHOTOGRAPHY Frenchie Cristogatin
STYLING Elen Pouhaër
WORDS Emma J Page

KITCHEN

'We didn't have space for a full table, so we designed a narrow option using lava stone with a metallic finish – beautiful, but also very durable,' says the designer Pauline Lorenzi-Boisrond.

Bespoke **banquette** by Sophie Desmarest; **covered in** Marabou chenille, Dedar. Verde Luana-Cipollino **flooring**, Cromarbo. Vintage Hans-Agne Jakobsson **pendant light**; similar, Pamono. **Cabinetry**, designed by Studio Ett Hem; made by Prisma. Fjerdingsstad **pitcher** (on worktop), Christofle. **Glasses**, Yali Glass and Sophie Lou Jacobsen. **Bowl**, Natalia Criado



DINING ROOM

'A champagne-coloured glass chandelier provides a delicate contrast to the wood,' says Pauline.

Table, Dorothee Delaye. (On table) Babylone **centrepiece**, Christofle. **Vases**, Léa Zeroil and Yali Glass. **Chandelier**, Laura Gonzalez. **Art** by Hans Hartung. **Console**, Valentin Loellmann. Ceramic **objet** (on console) by Ema Pradère, L'Oeil de KO gallery. **Lamp**, Julien Barrault. **Sculpture** (by door) by Gaston Chaissac. **Rug**, Atelier Tortil

LIVING ROOM

'Strong, sculptural stone - like the travertine we used for the fireplace, which also continues into the archway from the entry to the living room - ties the space together,' says Pauline.

Artwork by Gaston Chaissac. **Coffee tables**, Valentin Loellmann. **Sengu sofas**, Cassina. **Cushions**, La Manufacture Cogolin. **Pipe lounge chair** by Friends & Founders, Savannah Bay Gallery; **covered in Tiger Mountain fabric**, Dedar. **Primo red stool**, Léa Zeroil. **Rug**, Ido Diffusion



The download

THE DESIGNERS

Pauline Lorenzi-Boisrond and Maxence Lesueur of Paris-based Studio Ett Hem renovated this apartment for a city-loving Belgian couple with three grown-up children.

THE PROPERTY

A fourth-floor apartment in a classic Haussmannian building in Paris' 6th district on the Left Bank. There's a hallway, living room, dining room, kitchen-diner, main bedroom and en suite, plus two further bedrooms (one with an en suite), a bathroom and a cloakroom.

Plush headboards, sofas you can sink into, high ceilings and light-filled rooms: these are a few of the elements that make a joyful

home. Add into the mix classic wrought-iron balconies and wide oak parquet flooring and you have a covetable Parisian sanctuary – a bit like this one, on the city's Left Bank, just steps away from historic Saint-Germain-des-Prés abbey.

Look closer though and this apartment comes with a subtle twist: that ubiquitous marble fireplace has become a sculptural travertine surround; the quintessential Parisian galley kitchen features an intensely veined marble floor and an asymmetrical lava stone table, while doors are made of tactile, hand-scraped oak, known as bois gougé. 'Everything is about contrast and harmony – how each element plays off the next without overpowering it,' says its creator, Studio Ett Hem's Pauline Lorenzi-Boisrond, who reworked the interior space alongside partner Maxence Lesueur. 'We always seek a subtle balance between bold choices and quiet restraint, aesthetics and functionality.'

Little surprise, perhaps, given that seven years ago, Pauline made the transition to interior design from film production, where she honed her visual eye and developed an innate understanding of storytelling. 'Films can take four years to make and involve hundreds of people,' she reflects. 'In contrast, design feels more intimate, its results more immediate. I like that personal connection with the client.'

The homeowners in question are as interesting as their Parisian getaway – she's a sculptor and he's a businessman who

travels widely. 'They're epicureans, passionate about art, joyful, with a strong sense of aesthetics,' says Pauline. 'Their brief was to create a space that felt contemporary but still paid homage to the classic Haussmannian codes they loved: Point de Hongrie parquet, ornate mouldings, a fireplace, but all reinterpreted for their lifestyle.'

That meant reappraising an old-fashioned layout that had the original kitchen tucked into the rear corner of the apartment and saw an overkill of dark wood panelling throughout. 'We love the neighbourhood for its sense of history, but we wanted a more unusual take for our home,' says its sculptor owner. 'The idea was to breathe new life into the space without erasing its soul – creating something contemporary, but with heart, where every room invites you to linger.'

Re-siting the kitchen enabled the rest of the project to flow in sequence. 'Notwithstanding the typical Parisian plumbing problems, it was the move that unlocked everything,' says Pauline, of its new position. 'We carved the front bedroom in two to make space for it and removed the division between the adjoining sitting and dining room. Now the key living areas form an easy interplay so that the layout feels logical.'

The new kitchen has become a favourite spot. 'The couple like to sip morning coffee there while gazing out at the abbey or enjoy an aperitif as the sun sets,' says Pauline. 'The apartment building is in a magical street where you can hear the soft chimes of the abbey throughout the day. It's like a secret corner of Paris.' Much like this gently reworked home, which pays homage to tradition while quietly humming to its own distinctive tune.

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WE'RE DRAWN TO STRONG, GRAPHIC COMPOSITIONS, ESPECIALLY
GEOMETRIC ONES - CIRCLES, SQUARES, LINES - BUT ALWAYS
WITH NOBLE MATERIALS THAT GIVE THEM SOUL



BEDROOM

A curved wooden headboard beautifully embraces the bed, its shape perfectly offsetting the ceramic wall light. 'We wanted this room to feel comforting and generous,' says Pauline.

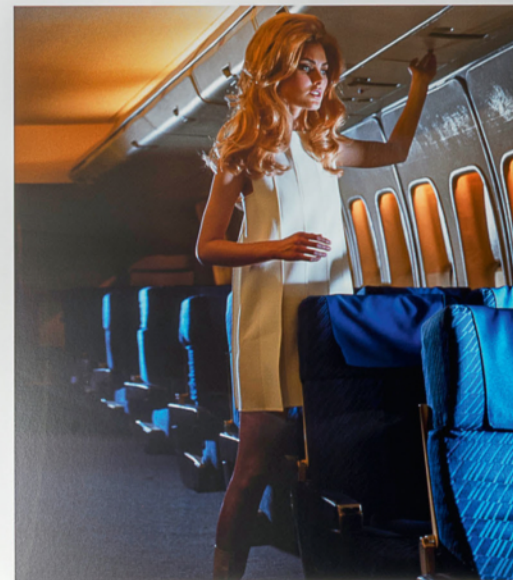
Bespoke **headboard and drawer**, Studio Ett Hem. **Glass**, Yali Glass. Brass **reading light**, Danke Galerie. Custom **cushion** by Sophie Desmarest; in Amuleto fabric, Dedar. **Wall light**, Pierre Yovanovitch. Photographic **artwork** by Philip-Lorca diCorcia



EN SUITE

A simple stained-oak floating vanity makes for a contemporary foil to the dramatic marble. 'We wanted a scheme that felt effortlessly composed, yet full of depth and intention,' says Pauline.

Bespoke **vanity** and **mirrors**, Studio Ett Hem. **Wall light**, Léa Zeroil. Green Army **marble**, Cromarbo. **Bathroom fixtures**, Rubinetterie Stella. **Artwork** (reflected in mirror) by Karel Appel



BEDROOM

'The palette of blues brings grounding appeal, while the headboard upholstered in a geometric fabric introduces a sense of movement,' says Pauline. Integrated vintage lights add a retro-chic touch.

Pendant light, Rothschild & Bickers. Bespoke **headboard**, Studio Ett Hem; **covered in** Scarabeo, Dedar. **Bed linen**, Couleur Chanvre. Brass **reading light**, Danke Galerie. Photographic **artwork** by Philip-Lorca diCorcia. **Rug**, Atelier Tortil

WHILE RENOVATING, WE RESPECTED THE HERITAGE OF THIS PLACE BUT APPROACHED IT WITH A FRESH PERSPECTIVE - WE DIDN'T WANT TO IMITATE THE PAST; WE WANTED TO CONVERSE WITH IT



MAIN EN SUITE

The mosaic flooring mixes Carrara, Nero Marquina and Verde Alpi marbles for a strong geometric look. 'It's bold, structured, yet refined,' says Pauline, who managed to also fit a separate shower and WC into the space.

Ceramic **wall light**, François Bazin. Marble **flooring** by Vanitas Studio. Custom **vanity**, Prisma. Sweet Bars **tiles** (on bath), Wow Design. **Artwork** by Robert Combas. **Candle** (on shelf), Studio Gaia