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VIVE

Classically ornate French details and futuristic furniture designs are not natural companions, but in this Parisian apartment they reach a stylish accord

Words IAN PHILLIPS
Photography STEPHAN JULLIARD
Styling DAVID CIBERT

Louis-Henri Delpy and Laure Girodroux are a husband and wife design duo with quite different aesthetics. Louis-Henri was brought up in an extremely traditional environment in Normandy, not far from his architectural touchstone: the fairy tale-like Château d'Ô which was built between the 15th and 16th centuries. One of Laure's greatest influences, however, is the almost futuristic French designer Oraïto, with whom she trained for three years. 'He taught me to be much more adventurous and daring,' she says.

In many ways, this 220-square-metre, two-bedroom apartment at the heart of Paris's Saint-Germain-des-Prés district, redesigned for a high-flying 60-something couple, is a perfect synthesis of their disparate viewpoints. The architectural framework is quintessentially French, with chevron-patterned parquet flooring, marble fireplaces topped by gilded mirrors, and flashes of intricate floral mouldings. But the furnishings have a lot more contemporary *chutzpah*. A kinetic light sculpture by the Swiss-born artist Bardula hangs on one of the living room walls, while a pair of sculptural armchairs by up-and-coming Ukrainian design studio Noom feature in the main bedroom.

The clients had lived here for several years before Louis-Henri and Laure's expertise was called upon. The décor dated back to the 1990s, with a dark colour palette and cumbersome furniture. There were also many more elaborate wall and ceiling decorations. 'You almost felt like the living room ceiling was going to fall down on you,' recalls Laure. While the rear section of this home was

completely reconfigured, with a spacious main bedroom plus ensuite and a separate guest room installed, the volumes of the main living spaces remained untouched. Few of the wall and ceiling decorations survived the transformation, though – the duo estimate they got rid of about 70 per cent. 'Our aim was to preserve the character, but lighten everything up,' explains Louis-Henri.

For the rest of the interior, their initial proposals were relatively tame. However, they quickly realised their clients were willing to go the extra mile. 'Whenever we proposed something, they'd always go for the most daring option,' recalls Laure. Take the kitchen, for instance, which is dominated by a striking Calacatta Viola marble island sitting on a mirrored base. 'From certain angles,' notes Laure, 'it looks as if it's almost floating.' The walls of the hallway, meanwhile, were custom-painted with a design that imitates the strata of rock, with a lustrous gold horizontal stripe through the centre. It is one of many gilded accents that run throughout the flat, offset by cooler ice-blue tones in the main bedroom, bathroom and study.

The majority of the furniture was chosen in response to the clients' request for unique and unusual pieces. One of Laure and Louis-Henri's favourites is the futuristic shiny aluminium chair created by French designer Léa Mestres in one of the home's two office spaces. For Louis-Henri, it's reminiscent of the work of Jeff Koons; for Laure, it adds freshness and originality. 'It's almost as if a UFO has landed,' she marvels. en.girodroux-delpy.com

la différence

Living room Two 'Ernest' sofas by Girodroux & Delpy, upholstered in a Dedar fabric, face a marble and brass coffee table by Yann Dessauvages from Galerie Scène Ouverte. The 'Flakes' rug is by Daniel Langlois-Meurinne for Manufacture de Tapis de Bourgogne and the black stained mango wood side tables are from the 'Elouan' collection by AMPM, available at La Redoute. In front of the original fireplace is a yellow sculpture by Andrée & Michel Hirlet from Galerie Yves & Victor Gastou ▶



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Living room The chandelier is the ‘Ovni’ from Ombre Portée and the yellow ottoman is the ‘Diego’ by Girodroux & Delpy. By the door is a ‘Cosme Liseuse’ floor lamp by Constance Guisset. **Study A** ‘Bubble’ armchair by Léa Mestres from Galerie Scène Ouverte sits next to a side table from R&Y. Augusti-Martin Berger’s *Combo* canvas rests on the built-in sideboard ▶



Study Gerrit Rietveld's 'Utrecht' armchair reissued by Cassina is paired with a 'Flo Lounge' floor lamp by Foster + Partners for Lumina and a 'Mer Noire' side table by Damien Gernay from Galerie Gosserez. The desk is the 'Dinant' by Bruno Moinard Éditions and the lamp is by Atelier Linné - try 'st Dibs. The starburst like sculpture on the floor is by Curtis Jeré from Galerie LMG. **Hallway** Atelier Tollis created the bespoke wall painting. The ceramic totem sculpture is by Marc Uzan from Galerie Yves & Victor Gastou and just seen above is the 'Polyedres' chandelier by Hubert Le Gall also at 'st Dibs >





‘FROM
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Kitchen diner The bespoke kitchen island and splashback crafted from Calacatta Viola marble are almost disguised in a beautiful optical illusion of natural pattern. Barber Osgerby's 'Smalto' table and Warren Platner's eponymous chairs - all for Knoll - create a dramatic spot for dining beneath an 'Agnes' chandelier by Lindsey Adelman. The candleholders on the table are by William Guillon and the rug is a custom design ▶



Bathroom Speckled blue terrazzo has been carried from the bespoke vanity unit onto the other surfaces. The 'Henri M' mirrors are by Girodroux & Delpy and the 'SS1907' wall lights are by Michael Anastassiades.
Bedroom Lellèvre's 'Hortus' fabric has been used for the curtains. The pendant light is the 'Mila' by Matthew McCormick and the bedside table is the 'Cupidon' by Noé Duchaufour Lawrance for Ligne Roset. See Stockists page for details [L](#)