



LEFT TO RIGHT

A pair of rugs from Les Manufactures Catry in a banana leaf pattern adds a verdant touch to the home; the family dog sits on an armchair in the living room



RETRO REVIVAL

A WIDE VARIETY OF DECOR STYLES, MATERIALS AND TEXTURES IS ELEGANTLY BROUGHT TOGETHER IN THIS DESIGNER COUPLE'S HOME

BY MICHELE KOH MOROLLO PHOTOGRAPHY FRANCIS AMIAND



LEFT TO RIGHT

Contemporary accents in the living room include a plaster chandelier by Robert Lemarié and an artwork made with an aluminium alloy by Gregory Ryan; Laurent Champeau and Kelli Wilde, co-founders of interior design practice Champeau & Wilde

It was happenstance that brought Kelli Wilde and Laurent Champeau together—the couple met while working at the Paris office of the prestigious Mlinaric, Henry & Zervudachi interior design agency. Wilde, an American art historian and interior designer, and Champeau, a French-British architect and designer, founded their own interior design studio, Champeau & Wilde, in 2011.

Since then, the dynamic duo have worked on luxury homes in both the US and France. Their unique design approach combines revitalised, classical French sophistication with contemporary comfort—and the couple's signature style is exemplified in their recently completed new home, a two-bedroom apartment in the culturally vibrant Nouvelle Athènes district in Paris.

The 1,600sqft property hadn't been altered since 1956, but the couple were particularly impressed with its full-length balcony and the light and space distribution. They spent nine months renovating and furnishing the space to transform it into their dream home.

“THE IDEA WAS TO MIX STYLES... THIS IS PECULIAR TO PARISIAN APARTMENTS; THEY CAN BE HISTORIC YET MODERN”



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Reupholstered in a playful leopard print fabric, the vintage chairs by the fireplace date to the late 19th century; a gold pendant light by Robert Lemariey is the centrepiece of the dining room

OPPOSITE PAGE

A vintage glass dining table is paired with the iconic Platner armchairs designed by Warren Platner for Knoll; key pieces in the living room include a Maison Jansen sofa upholstered in a velvet Dedar fabric and Roche Bobois coffee tables from the 1970s

FRENCH FLAIR

“The idea was to mix styles, like the contemporary fireplace that we designed, juxtaposed with an 18th-century cornice,” explains Champeau, who redesigned the interiors to accentuate the 3.2m-high ceilings and the balcony. “This is peculiar to Parisian apartments; they can be historic yet modern.” They retained the classical aesthetics of the original space, but reconfigured the layout so the interiors resemble a large loft while reflecting elements of a hallmark French period home. The new floor plan enabled more expansive living and dining spaces with room for a double-hearth fireplace.

The couple preserved and restored the original hardwood floors, ceiling mouldings, doors and jambs in the dining room, and the marble fireplace in the living room. The original floors were stained in a more contemporary chocolate colour, and the walls were painted a subtle, creamy white to update the classical architectural details. The entryway was furnished with Portuguese stone flooring and a vintage wall lamp. The living room, dining room, kitchen and master bedroom form an enfilade—a suite of rooms formally aligned with each other, which were a common feature of grand European houses from the Baroque period onwards.





“A HOME SHOULD BE A PLACE TO LIVE... IT SHOULD BE A WELL-DESIGNED, INVITING AND DISCRETELY LUXURIOUS PLACE WHERE ONE FEELS COMFORTABLE LIVING AND ENTERTAINING”



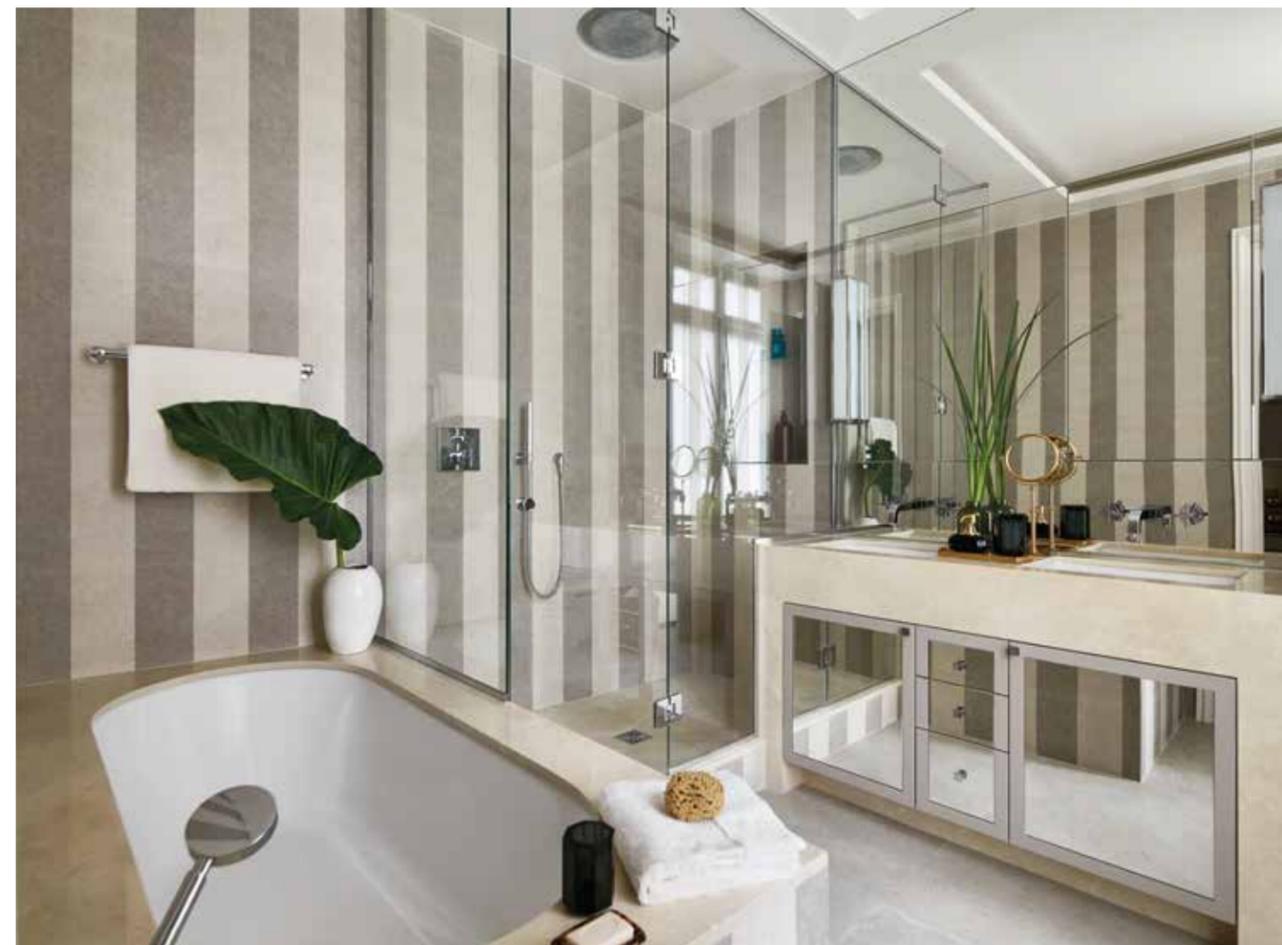
STYLISH MONTAGE

Most of the furniture was sourced from Galerie XX, a store in Los Angeles that specialises in 20th-century decorative arts and furniture, or the Les Puces de Saint-Ouen flea market in Paris. Some of the items are contemporary, while others are pre-owned vintage pieces. “Two hanging lights by the artist Robert Lemarié have a strong presence in the dining and living rooms,” says Wilde. “Although both are very different in style, the one in the dining room anchors the design concept, and the one in the living room has a more subtle poetic presence.”

Notable pieces in the living room include a mixture of design elements from different eras such as the Roche Bobois lacquer coffee tables from the 1970s, a '50s antique gilt ironwork table, a late 19th-century Austrian antique chair upholstered in Verasetta silk-velvet leopard print fabric, and a Maison Dutruc Rosset floor lamp with a pleated silk shade from the 1990s.

LEFT TO RIGHT

Objects on the coffee table include a Jonathan Adler Hippopotamus figurine, an antique turned wood tray and bronze sculptures by Manuela Zervudachi; the kitchen features vintage pendant lights and Mater bar stools; a view of the kitchen from the living room; a sliding door connects the living area to the master bedroom



As a nod to the dining room's original gothic theme, Wilde and Champeau incorporated dragon-detailed handles on the windows in this space. They also included an illuminated bookcase, a mid-century dining table with a Saint-Gobain glass top, and Warren Platner-designed Knoll chairs to give the dining space a touch of sultry glamour. Lacquer cabinets with Remy Garnier decorative hardware, Danish vintage pendant lights, and geometric print curtain fabric were used in the kitchen.

In the master bedroom, which looks out to a planted courtyard, is a headboard and nightstand designed by Champeau & Wilde, a velvet side chair that's a 1980s prototype from Liaigre, and a metal sun sculpture by artisan metalwork brand Curtis Jere.

Wilde used mirrors to enlarge and brighten the rooms and to create a sense of symmetry throughout. She enhanced the diverse furniture styles with antique pieces, flea market finds, metalwork, artworks, as well as custom-made pieces. "We used

THIS PAGE
The cabinetry and Kaldewei bathtub in the master bathroom both feature a Crema Marfil marble top

OPPOSITE PAGE
The master bedroom features a custom-made headboard, a Curtis Jere sculpture and vintage table lamps; a Rosa Nguyen artwork is displayed above a side table; the entryway features a Knoll Platner chair and a vintage wall light

a diverse mix of materials throughout the apartment—a glass dining table, a metal hanging lamp, lacquer coffee tables, and a plaster chandelier, for example," says Champeau.

MIX AND MATCH
From the fine-veined marble fireplace mantel to the banana-leaf print rug by Les Manufactures Catry, the rippling *Seascapes* aluminium alloy artwork by Gregory Ryan in the living room to the varied textiles—in leopard, geometric, floral and striped patterns—this home is an eclectic and skilfully composed symphony of colours, materials and textures.

"A home should be a place to live; not a cold space or an art gallery," says Wilde. "It should be a well-designed, inviting and discretely luxurious place where one feels comfortable living and entertaining." Indeed, the couple certainly succeeded in bringing this philosophy to life in their Parisian abode. 🏡

LOCATION
Paris, France

TYPE OF PROPERTY
Apartment

PROPERTY SIZE
1,600sqft

INTERIOR DESIGN
Champeau & Wilde

TIME TAKEN
9 months