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WINDOWS OF PARIS

Nestled between two dreamy Parisian landmarks – the gorgeous Opera Garnier and the blooming Tuileries Garden – this apartment is the home of two artists. The interior architect and designer of the renovated duplex, Louis Denavaut, has made sure that the space reflects its owners very well: ‘Although they live around the world, I believe they are still really French in their way of life. The apartment is quite minimalistic, because the owners need this for creating. But it also has dream-like details, like a French novel by Balzac.’ The building dates back to the time of the French Revolution and is also typically Parisian in its construction. ‘It’s a wooden structure filled with a mix of plaster, which is a nightmare for big renovation jobs,’ Denavaut explains. ‘The challenge was to bring serenity in the construction and materials instead of conjuring it up with decorations.’

Words by Olga Dolina
Photos by
Christophe Coënon



► One of Denavaut’s proudest moments was to successfully open up a spectacular arched window. The light-flooded living room features a noble 1970s-style Italian table and a custom-designed banquette made of bleached oak panels with leather cushions.

▼ Denavaut admires the metal structure on the top level of this historical building. Set above the living room, a white steel mezzanine with a glass floor has a railing that’s inspired by vintage ocean liners. A large oak-framed window highlights the work zone.



▲ One gem in this apartment is the breathtaking view of the dome atop the Saint Roch Church on the Rue Saint-Honoré. Many of the pieces of furniture and surfaces in the interior are very artistic. Denavaut believes that nowadays there are no longer any boundaries between the domains of art and design. It’s all just about what one wants to say.



▼ The minimalist bedroom upstairs features a custom-made stained oak walk-in closet, and the bed is placed opposite the window to enjoy the mesmerising view of the city.



▲ ‘We’ve preserved this wonderful *Point de Hongrie* parquet floor and a staircase that suited our project very well. Like the Opera Garnier we can see from the bedroom, the metallic structure is an echo of 19th-century construction in Paris,’ says the designer.

► Tiled entirely in black *zellige* tiles, the bathroom has an original Art Deco sink and a tailor-made bathtub. ‘It was a radical choice,’ says Denavaut. ‘I proposed it because this is the darkest part of the apartment. The client was willing to have windows open on to the kitchen, first of all to get natural ventilation, and second, to have a *mise-en-scène* of bathtime.’



The open kitchen features an island made of veined Pele de Tigre marble from Portugal, shelves of brushed stainless steel, and an okoume plywood cabinet tinted with walnut stain. ‘I really love that you can enjoy a glass of wine in the bath in the black bathroom, with the windows open as you look on as your friend is cooking,’ says the designer. **bo**