Ahead of the curve

Giving a heritage building a contemporary interior fit-out can be challenging; ornamental architectural forms often need to be accommodated, while the right balance must be struck between a modern aesthetic and classic elements. For an example of how to do it well, look to Paris-based architects Localt. Devaraat, who recently renovated a bar called Lamine in an art nouveau-style building in the French capital’s right bank.

Hence, Devaraat was able to preserve the building’s distinctive curving walls and arched doorways by creating instead generous furnishings. Key pieces include a black oak concrete table that wraps around a corner, a bowed sofa that mirrors the curvature of the roof and a wooden bunting that reflects a similar form. The bar’s stained-glass windows have also been restored and enhanced by a grey-green ceiling, which pays on the bars found in the apartments. The outcome is a bar that is both fresh and respectful of its past – and serves as a reminder of how a focused interiorist’s ability to enhance any work of architecture.”

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