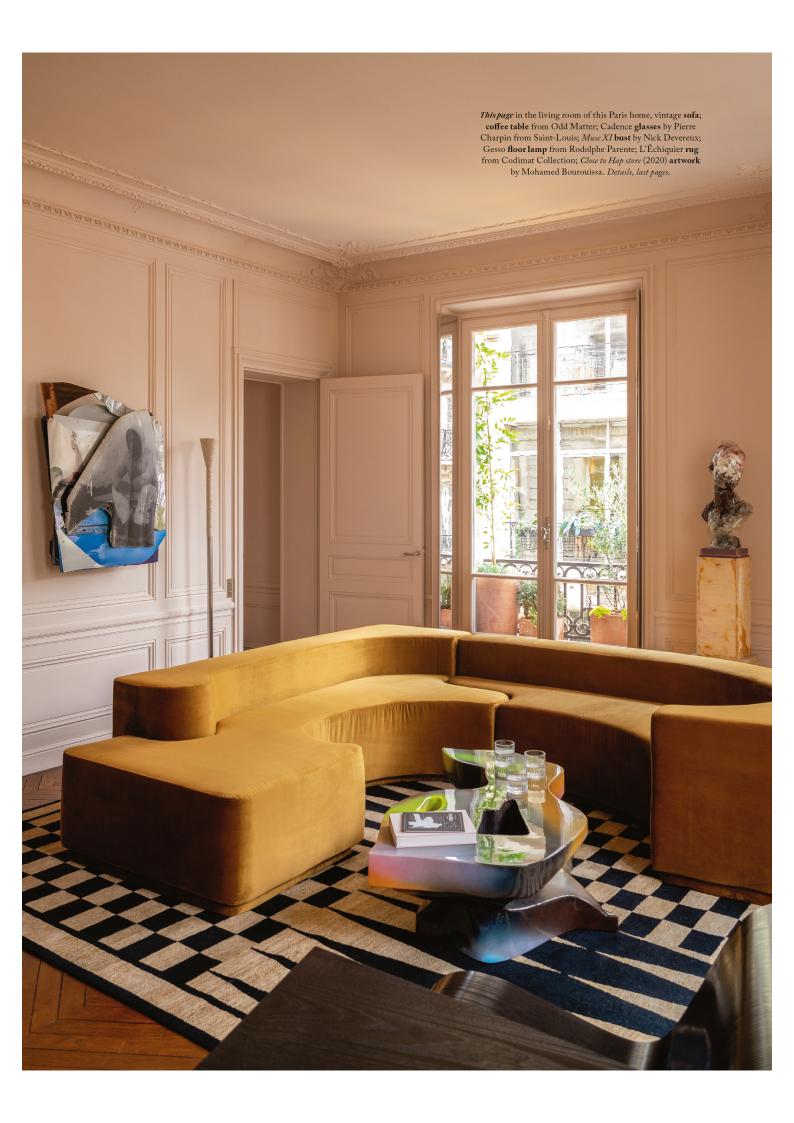
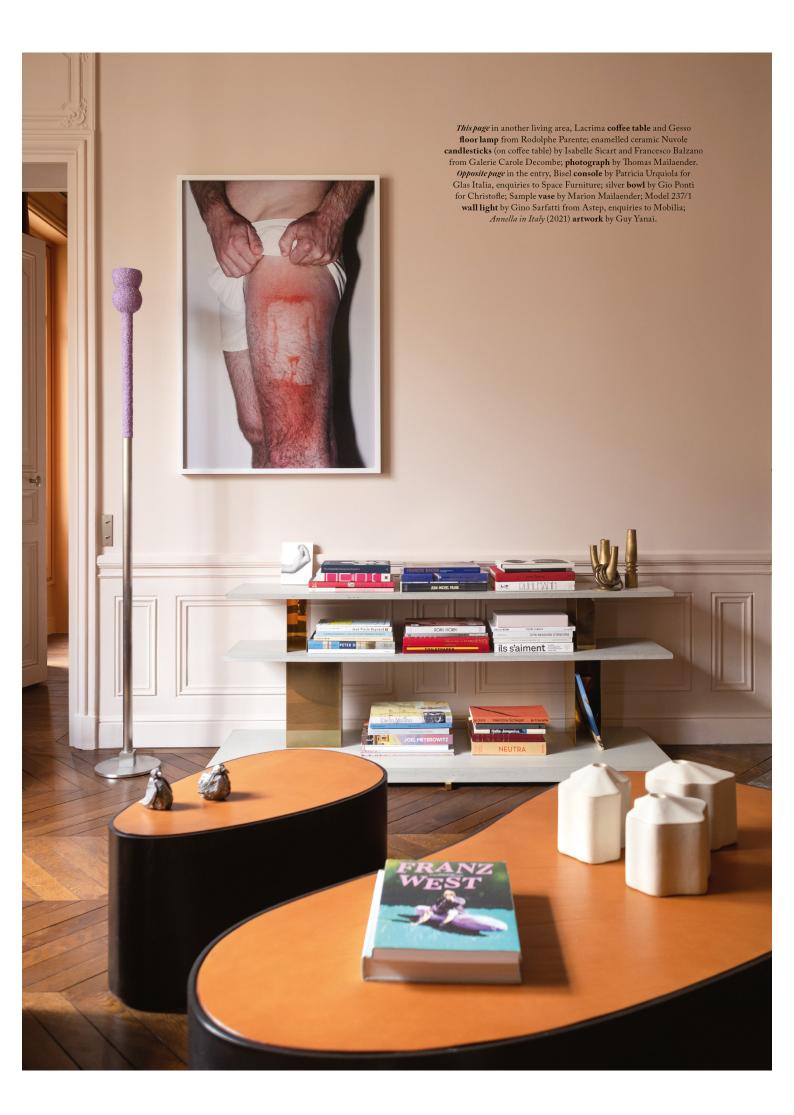


CARTE BLANGHE

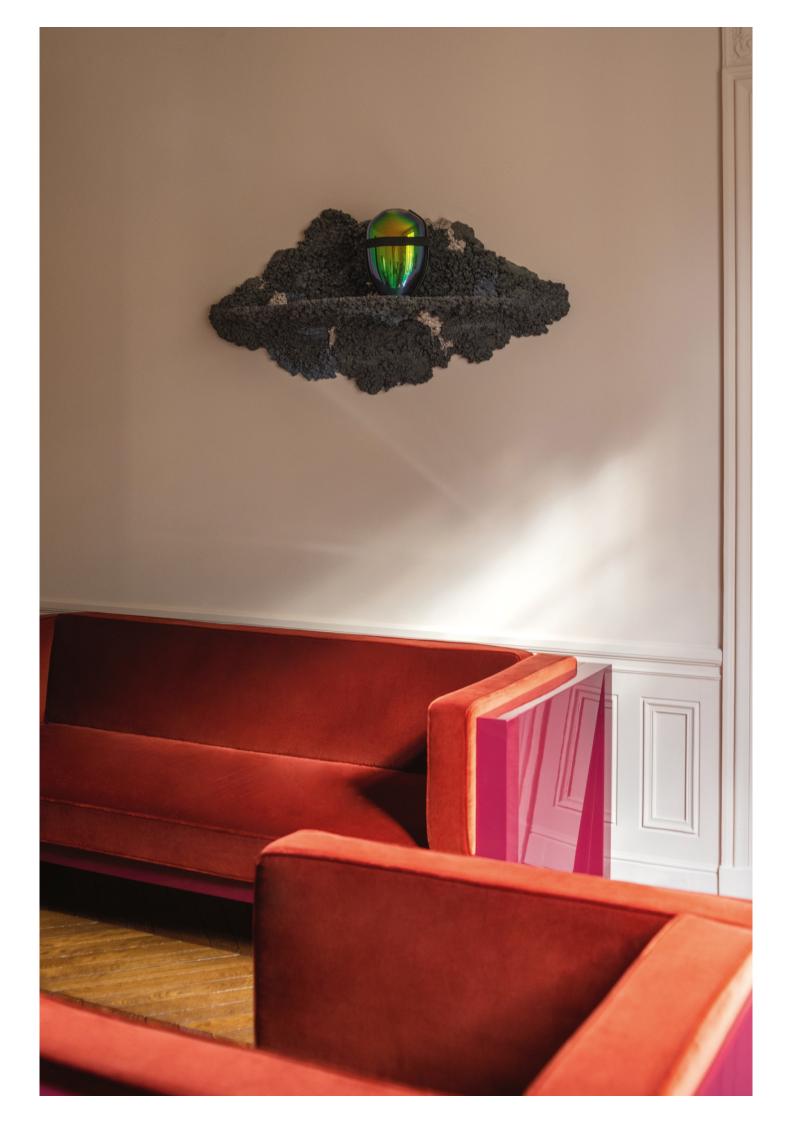
In this PARISIAN apartment not far from the *Saint-Martin* canal, designer RODOLPHE PARENTE offers a fresh, striking twist on blending new and old.

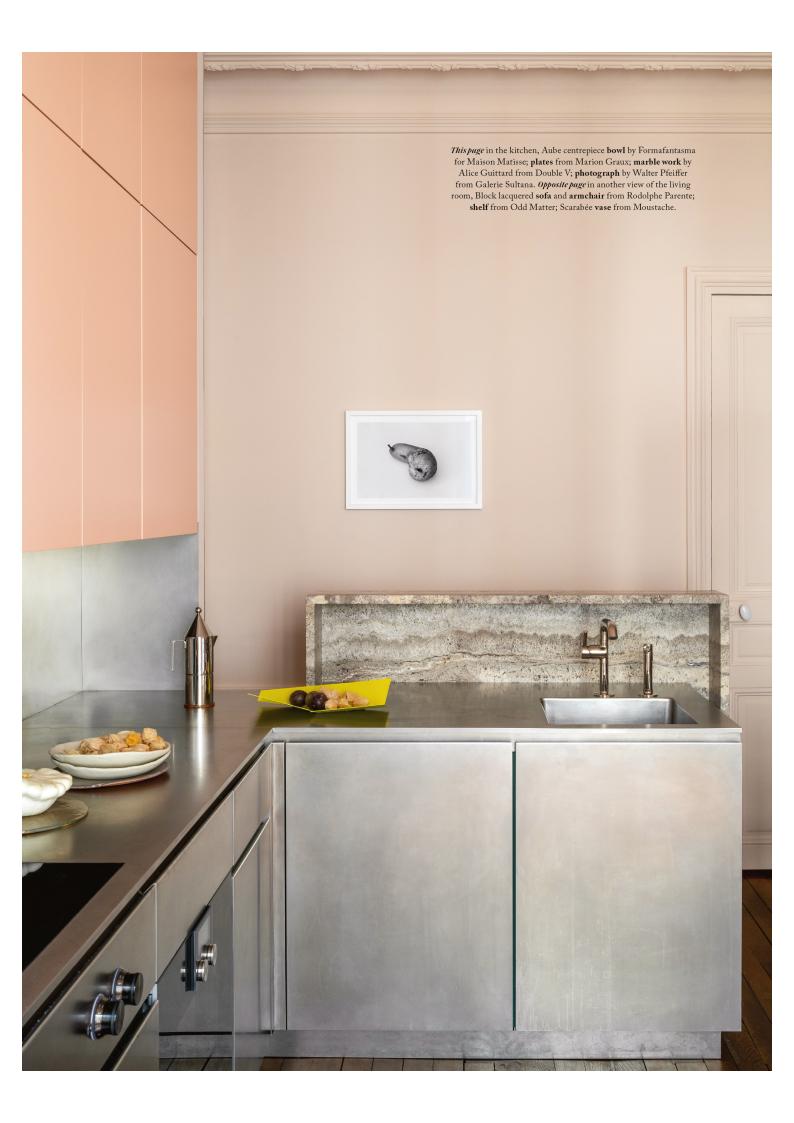
By MARINA HEMONET Photographed by GIULIO GHIRARDI Styled by SARAH DE BEAUMONT















ithout making a clean sweep of the past, which, on the contrary, he sought to restore and refine, interior designer Rodolphe Parente highlighted the period details of this Haussmann apartment with subtle additions and a little bit of modern thinking. "Here we find the whole history of French craftsmanship, and this is what I tried to extend by bringing in several contemporary craftsmen," he says.

In the entrance, a delicate vertical band painted in fine gold brings geometry to the space, while in the dining room a fresco finish by the duo Redfield & Dattner adorns the curved wall designed to partition the kitchen with reflections. Parente played with the classic codes of the Parisian apartment by re-creating, in one instance, mouldings where they once were. While preserving the historical heritage of the dwelling, he wanted to give it a modern reading. And this philosophy is also showcased through the mix-and-match of furniture and works of art —

Camille Vivier, Nick Devereux and Mohamed Bourouissa to name just a few.

All the spaces in the 160-square-metre home have been redistributed. The idea was to restore all the openings to the apartment, to create double circulation between the rooms. Plays of perspective have also been developed by treating the interior shutters of the windows in mirror-polished stainless steel. "I like to lose the perception of things. It was important for me to have paintings on the outside such as the living room, which turns out to be a veritable balcony over the city," says Parente. "I didn't want to weigh down this room with curtains — I wanted to feel the porous nature of the indoors and out." In the same way, he imagined a pastel-pink lacquered kitchen, friendly and open, with a mobile central island in stainless steel. "The kitchen is deliberately a little floating, made of lines and volumes, very composed, decomposed."

There is a free, daring, sometimes ironic style in this home that is reminiscent of Parente's *Contre-Soirée* exhibition — an apartment that revelled in the juxtaposition of minimalist, industrial elements with heritage-laden art pieces — presented during this year's Design Parade festival in Toulon of which he was the chairman of the jury. In all the rooms, this same search for contrasts of materials and colours is revealed, such as the main bedroom and its wide silk headboard. "It's a bit Japanese, a bit 1980s, a little Ivana Trump," Parente says. "I liked overplaying that in this room with a purple that cuts across the floor. Each time, the colour is architectural, it is not decorative colour. I like the idea of sequences."

With its shiny lacquer, the dressing room is a tribute to Charlotte Perriand, while the guest bathroom is designed like a box with its lacquered wood reminiscent of the world of Andrée Putman. The influences here are multiple, but always discreet. Another bathroom reveals a retro character with its curtain encircling the bathtub; at the entrance, a fanlight in dichroic glass adds a slightly techno touch. If they are not immediately noticeable, these "little accidents", as Parente likes to call them, are discovered gradually as you stroll through: "the idea is that you feel an intervention but that it is not forced." \blacksquare rodolpheparente.com



