



AN AMERICAN IN PARIS

For a couple who split time between France and the USA, it had to be designer Lichelle Silvestry who crafted their très chic bolthole

PHOTOGRAPHY Heidi Jean Feldman
WORDS Karine Monié



LIVING AREA

Wall sconces with upper light projection perform double duty by making the ceiling appear higher and enhancing the apartment's beautiful architectural features.

Aplomb sconces, Foscarini. Loll chairs by Paola Navone at Gervasoni. Rug, Nordic Knots. Mia floor lamp; Clarkson lamp (on fire) both Visual Comfort & Co. Epic marble coffee table; Moon oak coffee table, both Gubi. Bespoke sofa in a Dedar fabric. Cushions, Maison de Vacances



KITCHEN

'The banquette-style seating meant we were able to keep this area within the ceiling moulding that defined this part of the open-plan living space,' says designer Lichelle.

Kitchen **unit fronts**, Superfront. **Worksurfaces**, Corian. **Betty chairs**, &Tradition. **Limoges pendants**, Visual Comfort & Co. Custom **banquette** covered in a Casamance fabric. **Tap**, Hotbath. **Stove**, Lacanche





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THE OWNERS

American Eva Smith, a storytelling consultant, and Frenchman Louis Dubois, who runs a fintech company.

THE PROPERTY

A 150sq m two-bedroom apartment in a Haussmann building dating from the 1850s, situated in the 9th arrondissement of Paris. There is an open-plan living/dining/kitchen space, a main bedroom suite, a guest bedroom and WC.

For married couple Eva Smith and Louis Dubois, who hail from the United States and France respectively, deciding to live between the two countries was the obvious choice. 'We agreed to split the year between Paris and our ranch house near Lake Michigan, where we recharge and enjoy nature,' says Eva. When in the French capital, the couple like to make the most of what urban life has to offer, including trying new restaurants and going out with friends, so the location of their home was key. 'We had strict criteria in terms of neighbourhood, size and layout,' says Eva. 'This apartment was only the third property we saw.' It was the arched windows that convinced them that this was the one for them. 'They spark joy every time I look at them,' Eva adds.

Located in the 9th arrondissement and only a few steps from the historic Rue des Martyrs, the flat is in a typical Haussmann building dating from the 1850s. The couple quickly decided they needed to do a full renovation to suit their taste. 'I was on the hunt for someone who would understand our aesthetic,' says Eva. 'I spent a few weeks hunting all over social media and when I came across Lichelle Silvestry's portfolio, I instantly fell in love.'

From there, things moved fast. 'I wrote to her immediately and we spoke the next day,' continues Eva. 'By the end of our call I had cancelled the other consultations I had lined up.' Lichelle decided to reorganise the layout to better suit the couple's needs, introducing an open plan in the common areas – comprising the living room, dining area and kitchen – as well as bringing more functionality with the installation of air conditioning, plenty of storage and a spacious en suite and walk-in wardrobe. 'Eva and Louis wished for both a modern feeling and a cosy apartment,' says Lichelle. 'So I chose a light colour palette of creams and stones to brighten the space and used earthy accent tones, as well as natural textures, for warmth.'

Seeing this apartment as her refuge in the heart of the city, Eva feels the transformation has been the perfect match for her personality. 'I am more on the introverted side,' she says. 'Wherever I've lived, my home has always served as a quiet respite from the outside world and this place really reflects that.'

One of the couple's favourite elements is the custom banquette attached to the kitchen island. 'That was the culmination of an idea we had from the start,' notes Eva. 'We didn't want a traditional dining room because we don't do a lot of formal entertaining. Instead, we wanted an area that felt inviting and casual, like your favourite neighbourhood restaurant, where you pull up a chair and catch up with friends.'

Perfectly in tune with its inhabitants' lifestyle, the newly remodelled apartment seamlessly combines the traditional style of the building with every contemporary comfort. 'There is nothing jarring about the contrast – it's completely harmonious and we have Lichelle to thank for that,' says Eva.

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KITCHEN

'We actually closed off part of the entrance area, where the arch feature is, so we could have more kitchen storage and working space,' says Lichelle.

Sideboard, Maisons du Monde.
Wall lights, Visual Comfort & Co.
Vase (on sideboard), Zara Home



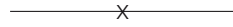
MAIN BEDROOM

Less-than-straight walls are not a problem thanks to custom-made cabinets positioned either side of the bed. The panoramic wallpaper mural works as the main focal point, also disguising the unevenness.

Samoa panoramic **wallpaper**, Ananbô. **Blanket**, Maison de Vacances. Rhythm **rug**, Ligne Pure. **Curtains** in fabric from Casamance



IN PARIS WE TEND TO SPEND MOST OF OUR TIME OUTSIDE,
SO OUR APARTMENT IS A QUIET REFUGE FROM THE CITY



MAIN BATHROOM
The tiles continue into the compact wet room-style shower area with handy seat. Custom vanity unit incorporating **basins** from Inbani. **Taps**, Hotbath. Oval box **mirror cabinets**, Ceramica Cielo

home truths

FAVOURITE DESIGN BRAND?

Lichelle: Liaigre. It is timeless and refined with the most exquisite craftsmanship.

WALL COLOUR OF CHOICE?

Farrow & Ball's Strong White – a contemporary tone with a hint of grey that is the perfect neutral backdrop for my Parisian interiors.

DREAM PIECE OF FURNITURE?

Anything from Fabrizio Casiraghi. His historical sensibility and sophistication are unique. Also,

Christian Astuguevieille's original and playful signature pieces wrapped in rope are a dream of a collection.

MATERIAL YOU USE MOST?

Linen, undoubtedly – a base to build on that adds character, warmth and tactile interest.

ESSENTIAL DECORATIVE ACCESSORY?

Fresh flowers are my favourite accessories. They are a simple way to add life to a space and they create a sense of liveable luxury that I adore.