

Paris Living

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Whimsical Abode



In this elegantly styled room, a Gustavian desk pairs seamlessly with a Louis XV yellow armchair, creating a sophisticated blend of classical design. A Philippe Starck chair adds a modern twist, while an Italian faux-marble stool, part of a vintage pair, introduces a touch of artistry. In the adjoining room, a striking zebra from the Design et Nature gallery in Paris and an 18th-century Mexican Virgin procession statue—one of the first pieces to grace this home—infuse the space with distinctive, worldly charm.

Jean Mortier’s Paris apartment serves as a testament to artistic expression and sophisticated living. Acquired in 2002, this six-room residence captures breathtaking views of the iconic Eiffel Tower and Arc de Triomphe, making it not just a home but a gateway to the historical beauty of Paris.

Located in a classic Haussmannian district known for its grand boulevards and elegant architecture, the apartment uniquely blends traditional grandeur with eclectic decor. An intriguing collection of stuffed animals adds a whimsical contrast to the refined backdrop. These are not mere ornaments but integral to the apartment’s charm, injecting playful yet sophisticated elements that reflect Mortier’s distinctive aesthetic.





Perched atop a classic Belle Époque building with its iconic dome and wrought iron balconies, the Krzentowskis' apartment offers breathtaking views of the city. Clémence—a young, talented Sorbonne graduate—reimagined the space, originally composed of smaller, traditional rooms, transforming it into a spacious living room. When their youngest child was born, the couple expanded further, incorporating an adjacent apartment into their home. This required difficult sacrifices, including parting with a cherished piece by Maurizio Cattelan.

For the Krzentowski's, the home is an extension of their gallery—a space where form often triumphs over function. Iconic pieces, such as a bronze Christmas tree by Philippe Parreno and a magical ceiling by Ugo Rondinone that emits paper snowflakes, fill the living space, creating a whimsical and ever-changing interior landscape. Even the oversized, sculptural sofa by the Bouroullec brothers has found its rightful place within this artistic haven.

(Left) The seating area is anchored by Pierre Charpin's *Ignotus Nomen* coffee table, complemented by a bold blue sofa by Pierre Paulin and armchairs by Robin Day. Art pieces include a striking sculpture by Jason Rhoades, a compelling photographic work by Barbara Kruger, and Christian Marclay's *Wheel*. A pendant light by Gino Sarfatti adds an elegant finishing touch.

(Above left) An Ettore Sottsass mirror graces an Alain Richard cabinet, creating a refined focal point. A sculpture by Boris Achour enhances the artistic presence, while a floor lamp by Gino Sarfatti provides elegant illumination. A thought-provoking work by Jimmie Durham completes the setting, adding depth and cultural resonance.

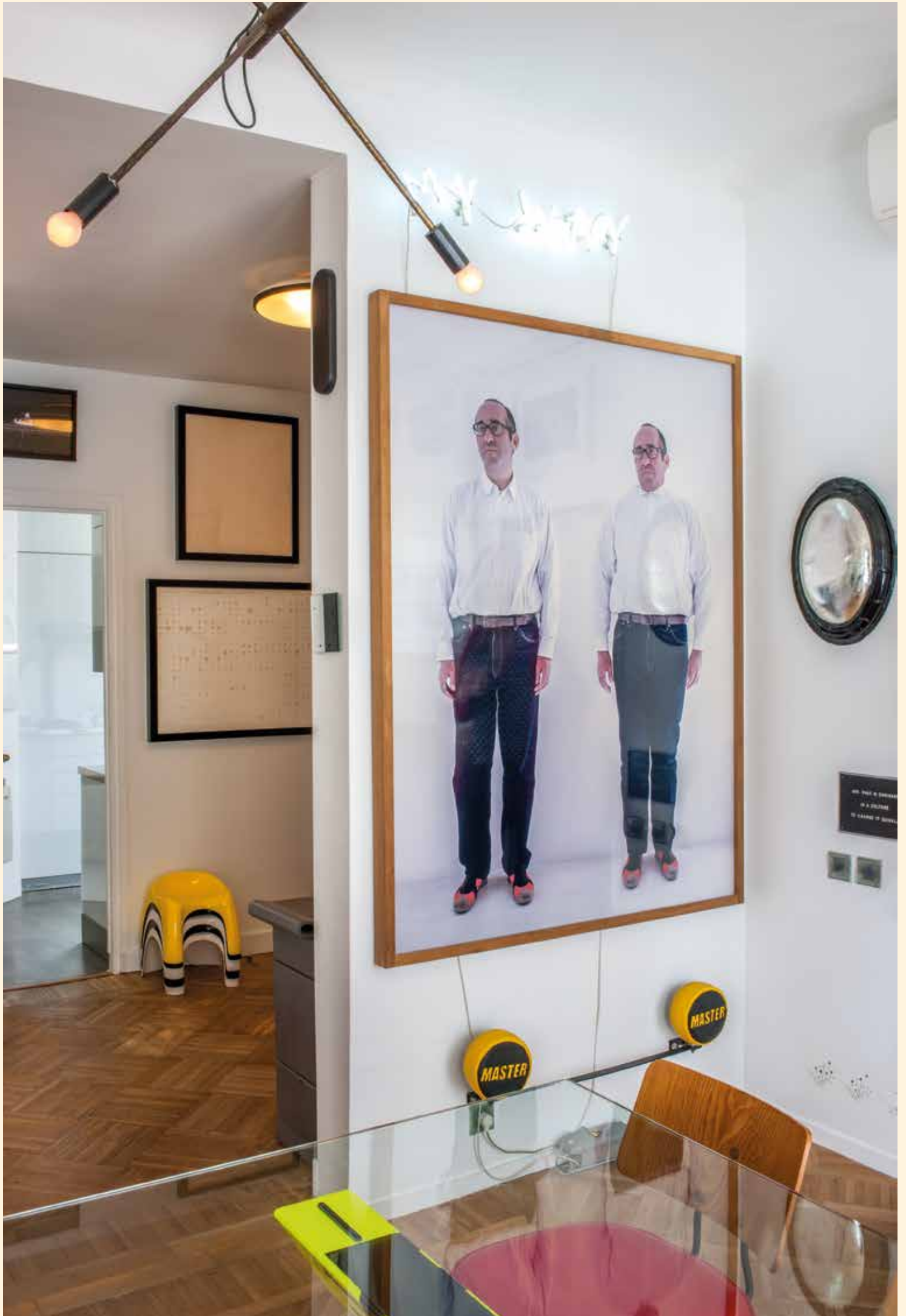
(Above right) A painting by A.R. Penck hangs above timeless Robin Day chairs, offering a classic seating solution. Konstantin Grcic's *Banzai* table introduces a modern sculptural element, while a pendant light by Giampiero Aloi provides subtle, understated lighting.

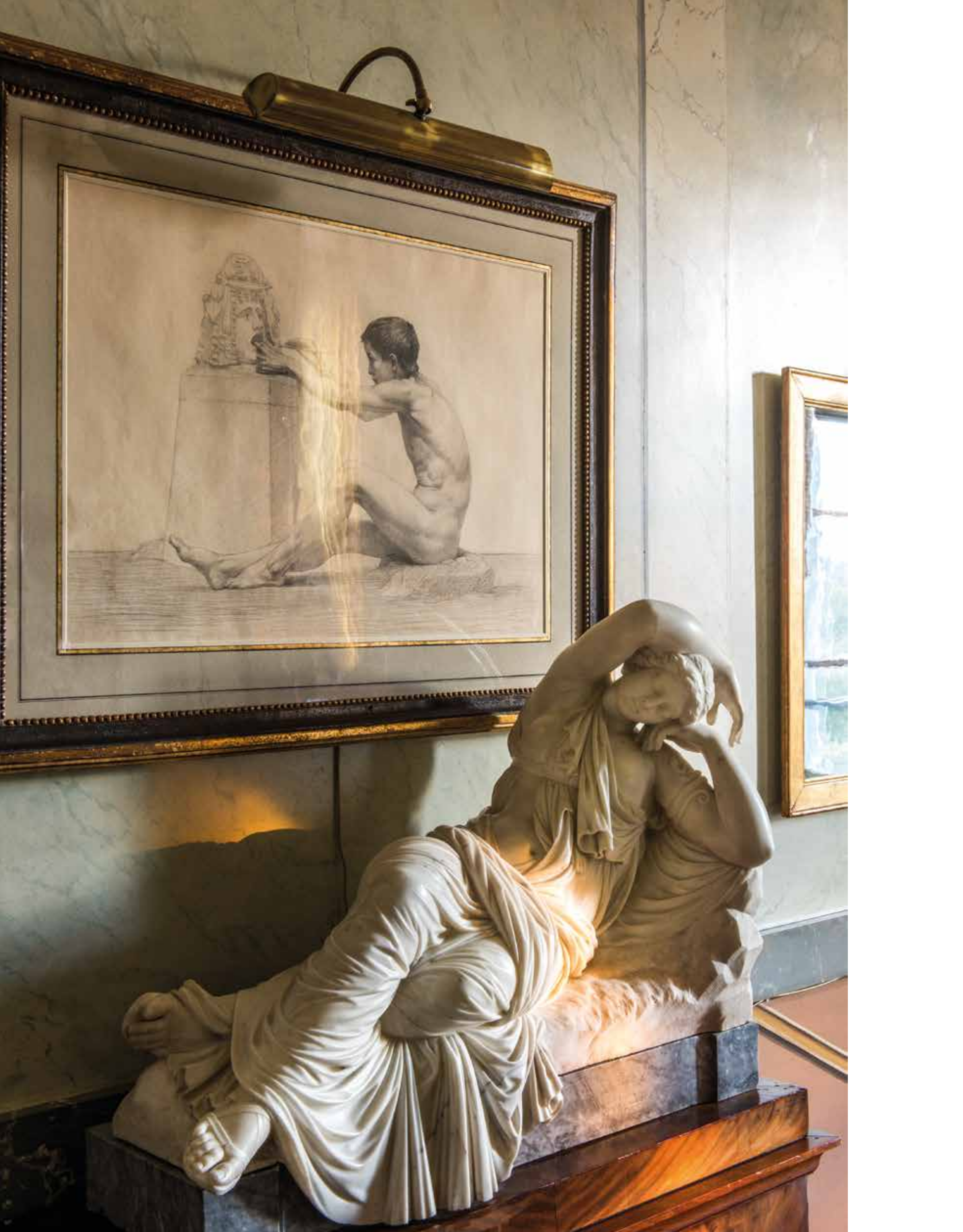


(Left) An earthy terracotta and bronze cabinet by Elizabeth Garouste adds a textured, artisanal quality to the space. A desk by Jean Prouvé combines functional elegance with industrial charm, while a minimalist wall shelf by Pierre Charpin offers streamlined storage, creating a harmonious blend of craftsmanship and modern design.

(Right) A photograph by Erwin Wurm injects a touch of humor and a contemporary perspective on sculpture, while a painted mirror by Bertrand Lavier blurs the boundaries between painting and object, adding an intriguing layer of artistic depth.

For the Krzentowski's, the home is an *extension of their gallery*—a space where *form* often *triumphs* over function.





Empire Elegance



(Left) The *Sleeping Ariadne*, housed in the Vatican Museum, is a Roman Hadrianic copy of a Hellenistic sculpture from the Pergamene school, dating to the 2nd century B.C. This celebrated white marble piece (c. 1795–1805), attributed to François-Frédéric Lemot (1772–1827), remains one of antiquity’s most renowned sculptures. Beside it, a neo-classical drawing captures a young boy immersed in sculpting, epitomizing the era’s admiration for classical art.

(Next page) A pair of gilt bronze Empire chandeliers casts a lavish glow across the room. Marble busts of philosophers Homer and Socrates (c. 1800) embody the enduring legacy of classical wisdom. Nearby, a marble bust of Emperor Hadrian from 2nd-century Italy, perched atop a Roman column (c. 100 A.D.), exudes timeless grandeur.

Nestled on Rue de Rivoli, overlooking the Tuileries Gardens, a striking residence exudes the grandeur of the First Empire. The owners, avid art collectors, have curated a home that feels as if it has been transported directly from the age of Napoléon. Situated in the prestigious 1st arrondissement, this historic residence captures the essence of neoclassical elegance through its architecture and meticulously curated interiors, while offering serene views of the Tuileries Gardens.

The allure of the past is immediately felt upon entering the home. The original architectural elements, dating back to the Empire period, include high ceilings adorned with classical moldings featuring palmettes and decorative motifs. These elements set the tone for the residence’s “chambre en enfilade” layout—a graceful sequence of interconnected rooms offering both privacy and openness.



(Left) Suspension lighting, sourced from an old mosque in Aleppo, casts a soft glow over a space defined by thoughtful curation. The room is rich with intricate details, including a monumental open shower, bordered by painted wooden frames holding antique mirrors, expertly crafted by Avignon-based artisan Vincent Guerre. A gleaming nickel pharmacy cabinet supports a monolithic sink basin from Damascus, infusing the room with understated luxury. A Jacques Adnet lamp sitting on a cantilever shelf adds a modern touch, blending old and new with finesse.

(Below) The second bathroom presents a masterful interplay of historical and artistic elements. Its washbasin, reminiscent of a holy water font, is an ancient piece from Damascus, elegantly cantilevered over a marble-clad wall. Complementing the space are charcoal artworks by Raphaël Thierry, adding a contemporary artistic dimension.





The design embodies the concept of a “*country house in Paris.*”

(Left) A captivating painting by Katrien de Blauwer commands attention.

(Right) The dining room showcases an elegant walnut table and sideboard designed by Camille Bazil and crafted by Alma Ébénisterie. Artisan chairs with rich wood tones are paired with luxurious Pierre Frey curtains, accented with trims by Houles (see image p. 129). The lighting, a Dan Yeffet floor lamp and a Santa & Cole chandelier, adds sophistication. A serene Bilboquet green wall color serves as a perfect backdrop, while a Josef Hoflehner painting enhances the room’s refined aesthetic.





(Left) An oriental corner adorned with intricately carved furniture and traditional earthenware creates a serene, culturally rich retreat within the modern space.

(Right) A sophisticated interplay of 17th- and 18th-century boudoir styles with a contemporary edge is highlighted by a custom secretary designed by Joseph Karam.



Karam, driven by his *passion for technology*, ensures his designs remain *aesthetically pristine* by concealing unsightly elements.

(Below) A repainted worker's cabinet from the factory era serves as the base for the whimsical sculpture *Prisonnier du temps*. Above, pendant lamps crafted from vintage ham molds offer an industrial yet humorous touch.

(Right) A Scandinavian wood stove radiates warmth, flanked by original Bertoia chairs. A striking pink chair by a Brazilian artist adds a vivid pop of color, effortlessly blending modern design with artistic expression.







(Above right) A cozy corner of the living room showcases a vanity table constructed from an assemblage of unique elements, framed by a homemade patchwork curtain of vibrant red fabrics.

(Right) A tribute to Andy Warhol's *Marilyn* in pink and orange dominates this eclectic corner, setting a playful, bold tone. Prayer flag-inspired banners, originally used in African festivals and carnivals, drape gracefully over a canopy-topped daybed by Regis-R. The bed's patchwork of red fabrics and hand-lettered cushions harks back to a 100% recycled art exhibit at the Jean Monnet School of Art. Adding a final playful flourish, the inventive *Bassino* chair—a vintage basin reimaged with tapestry—anchors the space with quirky charm.

The apartment's decor comes alive with *vibrant colors, textures, and imaginative artistry.*





(Above left) Modern artistry meets vintage refinement with Grégoire Hespel's 2020 oil painting of a donkey and Bénédicte Vallet's 2018 biscuit porcelain sculptures (Galerie Stéphane Olivier). These are elegantly paired with a 19th-century Italian walnut console and a 1970 ceramic table lamp by Mari Simmulson (*Fossil for Upsala-Ekeby*), adding vintage appeal and character. Completing the ensemble is a sculptural high-back bronze and leather chair by François Thevenin, elevating the space with its bold, artisanal presence.

(Above right) A 1962 black aluminum wall sconce, *Mod CP1* by Charlotte Perriand, adds a sleek, sculptural element, while three Argus pheasant feathers from New Guinea lend an organic, exotic accent.

(Right) A rare 1948 adjustable pendant lamp by Paavo Tynell for Taito Oy, crafted in perforated brass and frosted glass, infuses the space with vintage elegance. A collection of shoe horses and farrier signs introduces industrial charm, while an iron cow's head and a 19th-century Italian farm table underscore a rugged, pastoral aesthetic. Seating includes *Hunter* chairs by Børge Mogensen (1968) in leather and natural oak, complemented by *Tree Men* candelabras by Edouard Chevalier (2022) from Galerie Stéphane Olivier.



The furnishings are an *eclectic blend of styles and eras*, seamlessly transitioning from *18th-century antiques to contemporary art*.

