

Robb Report

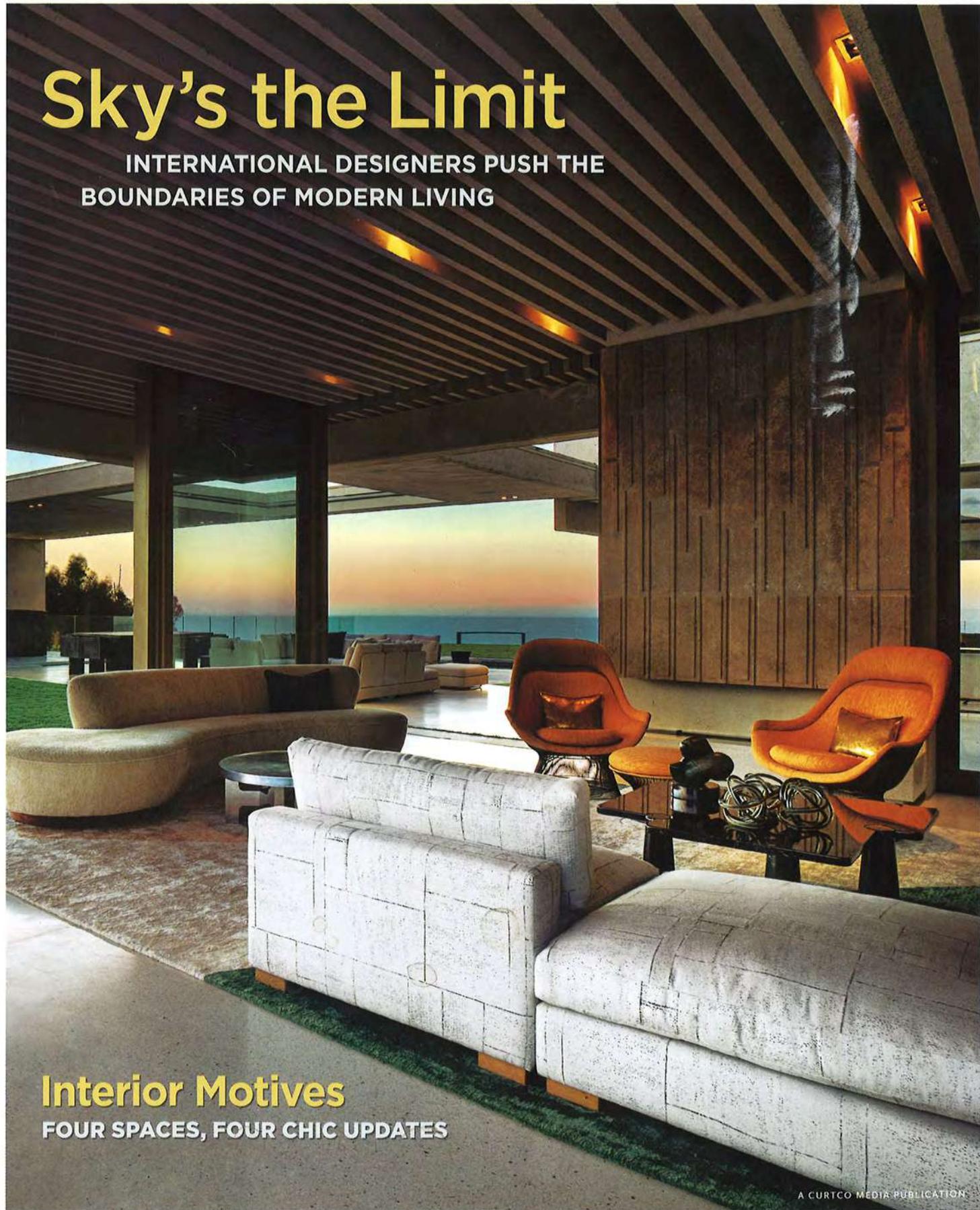
Home & Style

LUXURY RESIDENCES AND FINE DESIGN

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Sky's the Limit

INTERNATIONAL DESIGNERS PUSH THE
BOUNDARIES OF MODERN LIVING

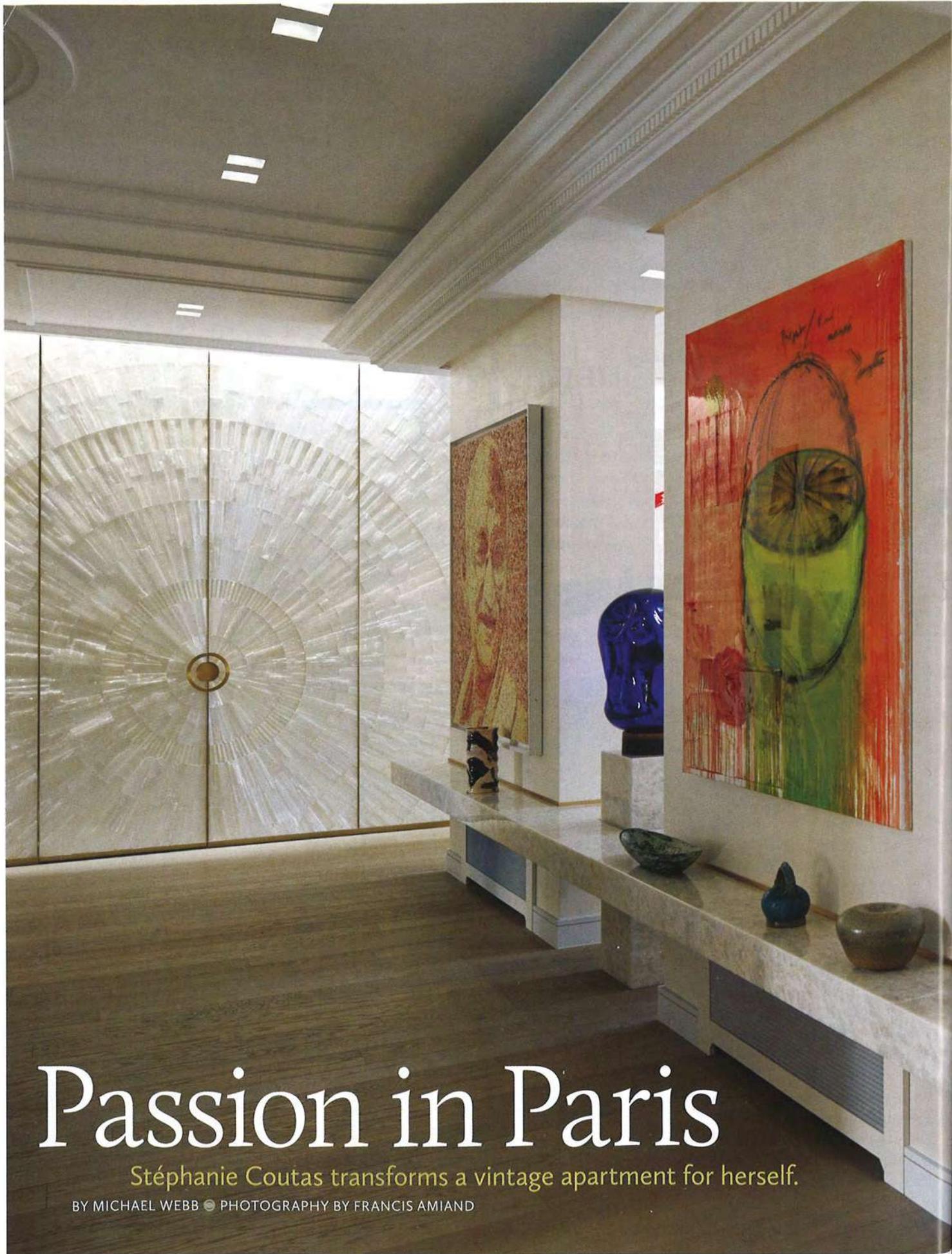


Interior Motives

FOUR SPACES, FOUR CHIC UPDATES

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Passion in Paris

Stéphanie Coutas transforms a vintage apartment for herself.

BY MICHAEL WEBB ● PHOTOGRAPHY BY FRANCIS AMIAND



THIS PAGE: Coutas animates the lounge with a jolt of pattern from Phillip Jeffries's aptly named wall covering It's Greek to Me. A Robert Combas artwork and Coutas's custom bronze Radiance coffee table coexist harmoniously with the black Ebru Dynasty rug. **OPPOSITE:** An 18th-century Chinese vase infuses a sense of history into the room. The Jensen armchair is by Minotti.



ABOVE: The master bathroom has an air of luxury. Coutas selected bronze-veined marble for the floor and bath area. The vanity is dressed in glass, black crocodile, bronze metal, and chrome, and topped with a collection of vintage perfume bottles. **BELOW:** The guest room hosts a quiet palette in textiles by Loro Piana, Rubelli, and Chivasso. **OPPOSITE:** The master bedroom opts for luxurious understatement with a calfskin wall, neutral carpet by Belgian brand Bomat, and bedside tables by Hugues Chevalier. Only the Cilindros gold-plated table makes a play for attention.





The entry to Stéphanie Coutas's Parisian apartment has an art collector's soul and a rebel's touch with materiality. Here, a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi by the artist Thierry Michelet, known as Joseph, and a mixed-media work by Fabrice Hyber blend with a custom opal marble console, selenite stone marquetry doors, and solid oak flooring.

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—STÉPHANIE COUTAS





OPPOSITE: Arik Levy's aqueous blue sculpture is juxtaposed with the living room's crown jewel—a Coutas-designed Baccarat chandelier. THIS PAGE: The designer's imprint is found throughout the room—in her Versailles Tai Ping rug, custom-designed B&B Italia sofas with Holland & Sherry embroidery, and dark wood console. A pair of Paul Evans lamps and colorful ceramic boxes add symmetry to the space, while artwork by The Kid supplies a dose of reality.



AS SOON AS STÉPHANIE COUTAS finished remodeling a Paris townhouse for her family, she began dreaming of a fresh challenge. The noted interior designer has a passion for collecting, creating, and arranging beautiful things, and all those talents found expression in her new apartment overlooking the Place des États-Unis in Paris. Despite the name, which roughly translates to “United States place,” this is a quintessentially French square: a railed garden surrounded by 19th-century townhouses. From the outside, these elegant buildings have ornate stone facades; the interiors, however, are constantly changing. In 1926, for instance, Charles and Marie-Laure de Noailles commissioned Jean-Michel Frank to create modern interiors for their mansion; in 2003, Philippe Starck turned those spaces into a glittering showcase for Baccarat.

Those makeovers inspired Coutas to transform a warren of tiny rooms on the fourth floor of another impressive house to make best use of its high ceilings and the light from large, south-facing windows. “It had a typical French layout, in which everything was tightly enclosed and the kitchen was at the far end,” she recalls. “The trick was to create a gallery that would flow out of





PREVIOUS PAGES: A textured bronze handle in the hallway elevates utility. Passing through the space, one finds opal marble floors accented with brass, bespoke ceiling moldings, and a chic absence of color. **THESE PAGES:** Challenging convention, Coutas had the Paris studio Moving Design create a video installation of a shark embedded into the mirrored walls of her dining room. Minotti's Aston dining chairs, Hervé Langlais lighting, Sabina Fay Braxton curtains, and a lavish display of Baccarat tableware set the scene.

the entry foyer, linking the principal rooms, and eliminating corridors. Living, dining, and kitchen [areas] are separate but grouped together and the master suite overlooks the courtyard to the rear where it's quiet."

For the entry's massive double doors, Coutas designed a sunburst pattern that was executed in selenite stone marquetry by the artisan Yann Jallu. She designed hammered white bronze pulls for the hallway doors, and conceived original rug designs—including the living room's graphic Tai Ping carpet—which lend texture to the solid oak floors. Indeed, the entire apartment is a showcase of her latest creations, a bespoke line named SC Edition. While a few favorite pieces were carried over from her previous residence, the new space is invigorated with Coutas's originality in materials and presentation: bronze shelves inserted into "new ebony" wall panels in the study; a sleek ensemble of glass, black crocodile, bronze, and chrome on the vanity island in the master bath.

When Coutas designs a home for herself, she finds the process much more complicated than when she's working for a client. "I have a million ideas and a host of new pieces and finishes that I wouldn't dare to try out on someone else," she admits. "It's an easy temptation to keep adding, but I am always trying to eliminate the inessential and focus on a few key features and materials. I decided to abandon the notion of symmetry and go berserk with the ceilings."

Shallow art deco-inspired ceiling moldings link the gallery and living room, and they play off the expansive crystal chandelier that Coutas designed for Baccarat. In the dining room, the moldings are more traditional, evoking the era of Baron Haussmann, the prominent Paris architect of the 19th century. The white plastered walls were left bare for the display of large paintings. Her latest find is an artist who calls himself "The Kid" and creates stylized portraits of imprisoned juveniles as his comment on the American penal system. Crossed through in red, *(text continued on page 59)*





ABOVE: A vintage oak desk from Chahan Gallery in Paris and a Gallotti&Radice stool provide sculptural statements against a wall of polished "new ebony" and geometric bronze shelves in the study. An André Willequet sculpture offers a textured contrast. INSETS: The living room features stylish moments such as a trio of metallic Rythm Selettes side tables by Hervé Langlais, Fujiyama seating by Orsenigo, and an antique ceramic vase—all enhanced by the graphic carpet.