

HOME TOURS

Tropical Murals and an Iridescent Frieze Gives This Paris Home a Unique Sense of Luxury

Stéphanie Coutas turns a stripped historic shell into a serene, light-filled sanctuary defined by bespoke tones and touches

By Amy Bradford

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If you could sum up this five-bedroom Paris home in one word, it would be “luminous”. The note is first sounded in the sunlit white vestibule, where a handmade frieze in lustrous selenite casts a radiant glow. Like the rest of the mansion, it was designed by Stéphanie Coutas, a decorator with a penchant for handcrafted elements. With this project, created for an international client “seeking a serene living environment where architecture, art and craftsmanship come together”, she has indulged her passion to the full.



Photo: Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt



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Although it's located in one of the French capital's grandest neighbourhoods, the home was in poor condition when Coutas first saw it, having been stripped of many original details. She was determined to restore what had survived – doors, ironmongery and stair rails – and recreate what was missing, such as fireplaces, mouldings and joinery. “The project carefully balances past and present,” she says. “Materiality and craftsmanship played a central role in shaping a dialogue between eras.”



Photo: Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt



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The colour palette – based on a backdrop of milky whites, warmed with soft blues, greens and pinks – delivers the tranquil atmosphere the owners wanted, but a host of custom elements elevates the decor to another level. Almost all the furniture and finishes are bespoke creations designed by Coutas herself, from the green velvet sofa in the living room (a version of her Elizabeth model) to the banquet-sized marble-and-mosaic dining table and a gradient-patina blue sideboard, which Coutas describes as “a functional work of art”.



Photo: Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt



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In the principal bedroom, a king-size headboard is upholstered in Dedar's Atlantico fabric and fitted into a curved, mirrored wall niche. "Sculptural surfaces, bespoke artworks and refined finishes were conceived as integral gestures," explains Coutas. "The furniture is a continuation of the architectural language, balancing sculpted forms with craftsmanship." Opulent finishes carve out every surface: the shimmering frieze in the entrance is complemented by marble flooring laid in an abstract pattern, while the walls of the snug are defined by Casamance's Siwa panoramic wallpaper and a large section of custom walnut shelving, ornamented with tactile fabric panels.



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The designer envisaged the material palette as “a dialogue between softness and texture”, contrasting brushed woods and sanded stones with polished metals and varnished timbers. Accordingly, some rooms shine while others are powder-soft: the dressing room is clad in glossy African fraké wood, or limba, while the china-blue kitchen features matt-lacquer cabinets and delicate tropical-inspired murals. “The kitchen is a more playful space, and the palm-tree motif evokes an almost dreamlike landscape,” says Coutas.



Photo: Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt

Among the contemporary additions to the home are the monumental, minimalist stone fireplace Coutas designed for the living room, her [Helios console](#) in the entrance hall (which combines a straw disc and stone plinth), and a pair of Eole jesmonite pendant lights by [Pierre Augustin Rose](#), which hang above the dining table. All of these are showpieces, but perhaps the most striking details are discreetly concealed in the private quarters: the principal suite boasts not one but two temple-like bathrooms, both remarkable for their marble furniture. “They were conceived as distinct yet complementary environments, or ‘his’ and ‘hers’ spaces,” Coutas explains. “One features deep blue marble surfaces, whose rich mineral tones create [an intense contrast with the surrounding architecture](#); the other is finished in lighter Calacatta Verde marble with fluid veining, creating a softer, more luminous atmosphere. Together, they form a dialogue between strength and delicacy.”



Photo: Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt



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The renewal of this historic Paris home is symbolised in its soft green accents, which are at their most striking on the basement level, now a spa, hammam and wellness zone. This unfolds around an iridescent mosaic-tiled planter filled with lush greenery. “The reflective surface catches and diffuses the light, creating a serene atmosphere reminiscent of an indoor garden,” says Coutas, who designed a decorative carved frieze for the wall behind depicting the tree of life. Not only does this ensemble give the sense of a connection to nature, but it also serves as another potent symbol, reasons the designer. “It reflects the idea of rediscovering the home’s historical roots, while allowing a new way of living to grow within it.” [@stephaniecoutas](#)

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