

Home!



ALL THIS PLUS A POOL, CHICKENS AND IT'S SEVEN MILES TO CENTRAL PARIS

A Napoleonic hunting lodge with a Fifties extension shouldn't work – but in the hands of a French stylist, it's a triumph

REPORT Emma J Page
PHOTOGRAPHS Amandine & Jules, Julien Fernandez

The living room, with sofa by Patricia Urquiola for B&B Italia, coffee table by Charlotte Perriand for Cassina and India Mahdavi armchairs. The clock was a family gift. Left, from top: Julia Rouzard; Gino Sarfatti pendant light in the hallway

Home!



An expansive, rural idyll just seven miles from the Arc de Triomphe? It sounds improbable, but Julia Rouzaud's house, complete with vegetable garden, chickens, a rabbit and a dog – not to mention a pool – proves that city chic and country cool go side by side. Her family home, a stone's throw from central Paris, is located in the peaceful western suburbs of the capital and it couldn't be more different from the classic, compact Haussmann apartment that she previously occupied in the middle of town. Along with Julien, her lawyer husband, Rouzaud, founder of goodmoods.com, an online interiors resource featuring shopable mood boards, moved here after the birth of her third child. "We both grew up in Champagne and we wanted to recreate that serene upbringing for our own children," says the mother of Manon, 12, Léon, 5, and Jacques, 2. "We started our search in Montmartre but, after two years of viewing dark, narrow townhouses, we cast our net wider."

Not even Rouzaud, with her eye for jaw-dropping interiors, could imagine that they would come across a three-storey Napoleonic hunting lodge complete with Fifties modernist front extension. The result is an intriguing blend of classic period detail, including turrets, alcoves, ornate windows and corniced ceilings, and a striking midcentury steel-framed bay room overlooking lush gardens. The marriage of the two styles seems an unlikely union, yet Rouzaud knew they could be united to form a harmonious whole. "The house had a strong personality and a good energy," she says. "But it also needed to be tamed. For us, that was about creating bold colour combinations in a modern way. I wanted to simplify the house while enhancing its identity."

The couple spent six months repairing dilapidated window frames, doors and flooring, leaving the layout unchanged before turning their attention to the interiors schemes.



This corner of the kitchen has a strong midcentury flavour with a pair of pendant lights by Alvar Aalto. The banquette is upholstered in a fabric by Hermès. Above left: the exterior



Original 19th-century details in the family sitting room are brought up to date with bold purple paint. Right: geometric curtains in Jacques' room



Bold colour blocking in Manon's bedroom, with paint by Ressource, Argile and Farrow & Ball. Right: the en suite with geometric floor tiles by India Mahdavi for Bisazza



'WHAT'S CRAZY IS THAT I DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO BUY THE HOUSE INITIALLY'

Now, a unifying palette of warm tan, terracotta and pink prevails, with bolder splashes of purple and green adding oomph. And while it may look effortless, nothing was left to chance. "Colour combining is a real passion of mine," Rouzaud explains. "Inspiration comes from paintings, scenography and street looks. I created a very detailed mood board for each room."

Strong contours and graphic silhouettes have proved more than a match for the expressive architecture of this home. It's a distinctive look with a midcentury feel ("My favourite eras are postwar and modernist"). A recurring motif is the use of colour blocking on the walls, such as the four-tone overlay in daughter Manon's room, complemented by playful touches such as the wide panels of colour running up the wall and lapping just

over the ceiling in Léon's bedroom. Bold geometrics, including India Mahdavi floor tiles in the en suite, ramp up the wow factor.

Here, fabric and texture rule. Every surface is deeply tactile, from the generously fluted Patricia Urquiola sofa in the living room to the richly upholstered banquette in the kitchen. A bold move was to clad the original period fireplace in the living room with a walnut flue, straight out of *Mad Men*, for drama and depth. "That was our way of extending the Fifties lines of the glazed bay into the rest of the house," says Rouzaud. Another nod to the era comes in the form of sculptural midcentury lighting, including a pair of Ingo Maurer wall lights that Rouzaud spotted in Milan nearly a decade ago, and the Atelier Areti lamps that grace either side of the 19th-century fireplace in the family's sitting room.

Above all, despite its generous volume, this is a home for family time. "The five of us love hanging out together," says Rouzaud. "We've created spaces that enable us to share precious moments. For example, we eat at the kitchen table every evening. It's relatively compact, but being in close proximity brings us together." Weekends are now spent gardening, barbecuing, playing tennis and enjoying the pool in warmer weather. "We love this place more than anywhere else and would happily spend our holidays here," says Rouzaud. "What's crazy is that I didn't initially want to buy the house because its design felt too complex. That rather proves Voltaire's theory that perhaps the best rewards come from learning to tend your own garden." ■

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