

paris match

Marie-Ange de Charry's mantra for her apartment was for it to be unconventional rather than contemporary but it still has that très-chic vibe you'd expect from a home in the French capital

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KITCHEN-DINER

It's the gold that brings this eclectic scheme together. Linking the lights to shelving and baseboard, owner Marie-Ange could then run riot with pattern and still keep it cohesive.

Golden Bees wallpaper, Jules & Jim. Kitchen designed by Lieux Particuliers. Bespoke marble counter supplied by Les Marbreries de la Seine



LIVING ROOM

A pair of vintage armchairs pick out the hues of the informally hung art. 'I love colour because it's life,' says Marie-Ange.

Walls in Dimity, Farrow & Ball.
Armchairs in Brochier, Jules & Jim.
Table lamp, Puces de Paris
Saint-Ouen

home profile

THE OWNER

Marie-Ange de Charry, an estate agent and interior designer, and her dog Potiche, a Cavalier King Charles spaniel.

THE PROPERTY

A first-floor apartment in a 19th-century neoclassical building on Paris' Left Bank. It has a kitchen-diner, living room, two bedrooms, both en suite, a cloakroom and a laundry room.

Even in the depths of a Paris winter, this Left Bank flat is full of joie de vivre. That's partly down to its vibrant finish, including playful gold speckled wallpaper and jewel-coloured fabrics, and partly down to the fun-loving personality of its owner, Marie-Ange de Charry, a former advertising exec turned interior designer.

During the festive season, her home is overflowing with friends, new and old, gathered to celebrate the run-up to Christmas or to see in the New Year. The Parisian-born designer likes to have at least 10 people around the table but is the first to admit she's no cook. It's not an obstacle, however, as 'masses of gold decorations, good wine and home delivery suppers on speed dial' solve the issue.

Full of playful pattern, vintage finds, vibrant artwork and freestyle additions, this apartment has the trad bones that Francophiles associate with a classic Paris pad – Versailles parquet flooring, ornate mouldings, marble mantels – spiced up with some unexpected touches – think hand-drawn wall murals and restaurant-style brass track lighting in the kitchen-diner.

But when Marie-Ange moved in three years ago, it hadn't been touched in several decades. There were three small living rooms, a slip of a kitchen wedged behind one of them, a narrow bathroom and two bedrooms. She reimagined the space to make better sense of it: kitchen, living room and bathroom were turned into a bedroom with en suite and dressing room; a second sitting room and bedroom became an open-plan kitchen-diner, while a pair of antique double doors now lead into a reworked living room with en suite guest room just beyond. 'I'm a bit of a serial mover because I actually love

renovating,' admits Marie-Ange. 'I don't have any decorative motifs per se because I like to do something different every time, but I do always consider light, perspective and context.'

'Unconventional rather than contemporary' is how Marie-Ange sums up her style. That can be seen in the kitchen, where she has eschewed wall cabinets, opting instead for glass shelving set against a metallic wallpaper. The same creative flair reappears in her bedroom, where a silhouetted treescape creeps up concealed doors, extending their fronds to the en-suite walls, too. The designer also chose a curved marble bath because 'I like to avoid right angles'.

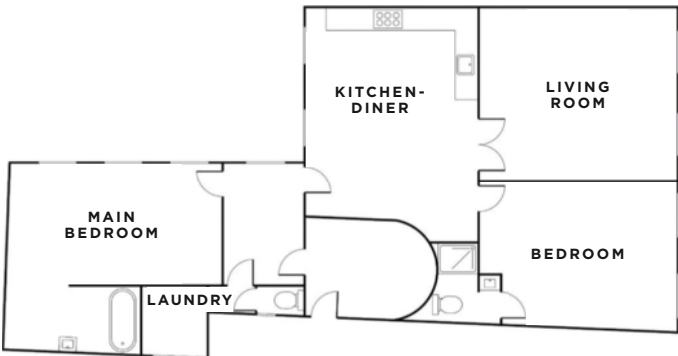
That creative streak is less surprising when you consider Marie-Ange's heritage. The great granddaughter of jeweller Louis Cartier, she's inherited an appreciation of beauty as well as an entrepreneurial streak. 'Yes, there are some creative names in my family including fashion designer Charles Frederick Worth, associated with the birth of haute couture,' she says. 'It means that I was brought up to think about how to do things differently.'

It's an ethos seen in gestures big and small: patterned armchairs beneath a tableau of artwork; off-black curtains chosen to offset colourful elements; and marble counters contrasted with a Saarinen table. 'I have no problem mixing and matching – I like to combine family objects with newer pieces,' she says. 'For me, it's about looking at materials that have always been around and thinking about how to present them differently. I love the idea of regular reinterpretation.'

lieuxparticuliers.com



the blueprint



DINING AREA

A 'freestyle' addition is added to every space to up the playfulness of each scheme - here it's the ladderback chair.

The Eero Saarinen **table** is vintage. Dining **chairs**, AM.PM

LIVING ROOM

Marie-Ange updated the fire surround in this space, opting for classic marble with simple lines for a contemporary twist.

Coffee table, ODA Gallery, Paris; try Vinterior for a similar mid-century one. Round **wall mirror** from Paul Bert Serpette at Puces de Paris Saint-Ouen

HALLWAY

Pops of colour and plenty of texture, from the traditional Versailles parquet to a fluted bamboo chest of drawers, add depth and flair.

Vintage lamp with bespoke shade by Clair Obscur. Source a similar red juju feather hat (just seen) at Trouva. Walls in Cat's Paw, Farrow & Ball

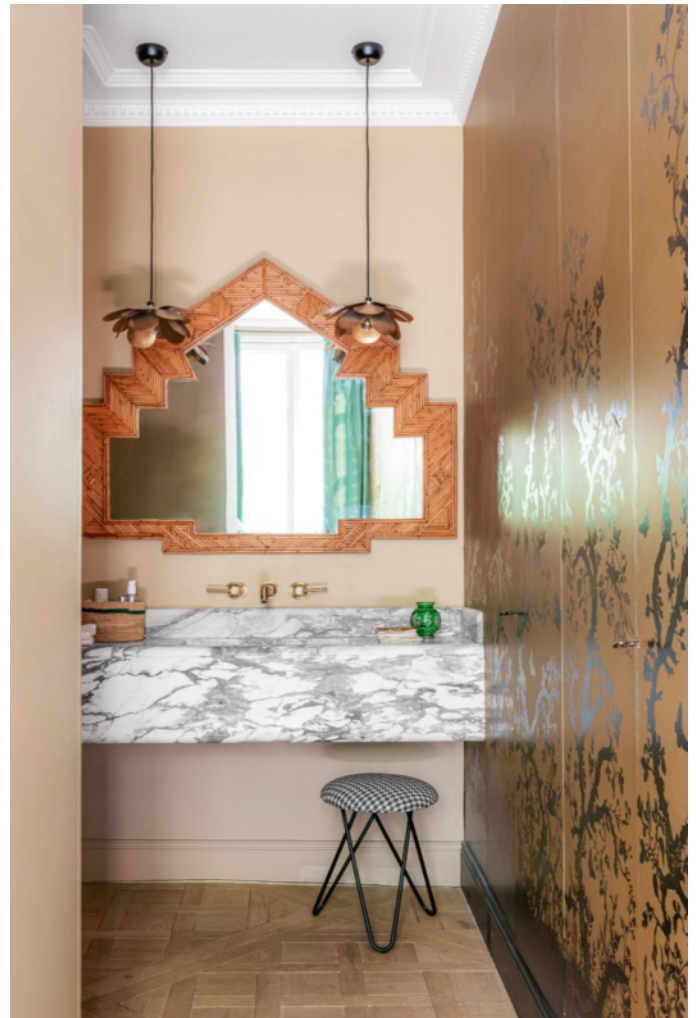


EN SUITE

A mirrored wall reflects the decorative mural. 'Tiled bathrooms don't appeal to me, so I chose a painted finish,' says Marie-Ange.

Walls in Cat's Paw, Farrow & Ball. Birdbranch hand-printed wallpaper panel, Timorous Beasties. Vintage mirror (opposite), Paul Bert Serpette at Puces de Paris Saint-Ouen. Pendant lights, Caravane





BEDROOM

'I like to introduce a touch of pink to every scheme,' says Marie-Ange of the lampshade. 'I've found that pairing it with black is very effective.'

Lampshade in Laguna in Hot Pink, Christopher Farr Cloth.
Lamp base, India Mahdavi.
 Vintage Italian **bedside table**, Simonet Antiquités, Paris.
 Vintage Jean Royère **wall light**

home truths

DESIGN RULES YOU LIVE BY?

Never new – except for fabrics.

FAVOURITE NEW YEAR RITUAL?

Escaping to the mountains – fresh air and fresh starts.

YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS...

Eclectic, textured and colourful.

BEST 'SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT' HERE?

Turning several small rooms into one generous kitchen-diner in the centre of the flat.

BEST DESIGN DECISION?

Using colour – and introducing off-black elements to show it off.

TO-DIE-FOR BRAND?

India Mahdavi – I love everything she does.