

CARTE BLANCHE

There's no holding back in the design of this Parisian office-turned-Californian-inspired-bolthole

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WORDS Emma J Page

LIVING ROOM

'I wanted to set the scene from the get-go,' explains the designer Louis Aspar. 'The space immediately asserts its character as very graphic and colourful, which projects a fantasy atmosphere in the heart of Paris.'

Natural Burgundy walnut **panel**, Egger. Modular **sofa**, The Masie. **Coffee table**, Sklum. **Rug**, Rugvista

LIVING ROOM

Deep terracotta walls contrast with the teal velvet sofas for a revised version of 1950s Californian style. 'You feel like you're in a film set in this hidden mansion, with a neo-vintage atmosphere that blends round, square and triangular geometric shapes,' says Louis. 'Custom-designed pieces include the bas-relief work and the wavelet bookcase.'

Walls in Burgundy Red, Egger. **Ceiling in** Shadow White, Farrow & Ball. Skirting in Gloss Terracotta & White Bejmat **tiles**, Wow Design. Custom walnut **bookcase**, Studio Louis Morgan. **Pendant light**, Hay





The last thing you'd expect inside this former set of offices at the end of a Parisian cul-de-sac is a mid-century-meets-cool surfer vibe, but that's exactly what it serves. Part of its intrigue is based on that contradiction: the innocuous street it's located in is actually a stone's throw from the Eiffel Tower, while those Californian vibes are in fact the vision of its designer, Louis Aspar, Parisian born and bred, known for his almost futuristic treatment of fashion-forward restaurants, bars and homes.

Storytelling is key to his approach, and the sense of place he's created relies on exploiting the insular nature of the building, inverting the usual goal of bringing the outside in, given that there are few eye level windows and therefore limited views. Instead, drama is found within, from sculptural shapes and overscaled furniture to rich colours and textures. 'I knew we needed to be audacious with this design,' says Louis. 'I wanted it to be sexy and strong, playful and humorous, and just a little bit theatrical.'

That was achieved by commissioning a dining table inlaid with burgundy tiles and a striking bas-relief on the living room wall, which is in fact an integrated sculpture that Louis says is designed to 'prompt contemplation and reflection'. Giant sofas encourage lounging, while unexpected touches, from tiled striped stair risers to a life-size resin cactus, bring the theatre.

It's no surprise that a dash of Louis' own sensibility crept in. The designer, who grew up in a classic Haussmannian apartment, developed a love of skating and surfing as a teenager, spending summers in the South of France. 'Yes, there's an echo of that,' he smiles. 'California, art, fashion, jewellery – they have all influenced me. Plus, creating a "fake" Parisian apartment out of this space wasn't of interest. The building's lack of architectural merit directed me to do something fresh and different with it.'

At first glance, the space may give no hint of its locale, but look closer and there are some distinctly French touches, including two-tone walls, monochrome lighting and the kind of clean, crisp finish associated with contemporary Parisian interiors. Add a touch of playfulness – via portholes, archways and terrazzo – and you have something approaching Louis' ethos, which he says veers towards 'surprise, contrast and a play of light and shade'.

Audacious in form and colour it may be, but this is still a home in which to kick back, away from prying eyes. 'It's not meant to be like an art gallery, or picture perfect,' says Louis. 'It's a place where you can uncork the wine and chill.' An enticing summary of an atypical Parisian bolthole, created with adventurers in mind.

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studiolouismorgan.com; edgarsuites.com

KITCHEN-DINER

'I wanted this space to exude conviviality, hence leaving it open-plan,' explains Louis. 'The wood tones of the cabinetry, dining table and flooring create depth and infuse the space with a retro Californian atmosphere.'

Cabinetry, Plum Living. Natural Burgundy walnut **panel**, Egger. Custom **dining table** inlaid with Granato tiles, Lucidi Collection. Vintage **dining chairs**, Selency. Jute **rug** with red border, Nordic Knots. 30 Degrees **pendant lights**, Hay. **Wall lights**, Contain

MY DESIGN STYLE IS IN PART INFLUENCED
BY LONDON'S ECCENTRICITY AND ECLECTIC
STYLE - I LOVE THE STANDARD HOTEL -
EVERY SPACE FEELS LIKE A MOVIE SET

BEDROOM

'Every threshold transitions from one colour to another so that it feels as though you are stepping into a different world from room to room, albeit with some common threads,' says Louis.

Watercolour Green **wallpaper**, Photowall.
Entrance ceiling in Eating Room Red, Farrow & Ball.
Vesper retro **wall light**, Westwing, Bed **throw**, The Socialite Family



HALLWAY

'All the transitional spaces are designed to be playful and fun,' says Louis, who contrasted striped tiled stair risers with a graphic floral wallpaper to counter the narrowness of the space.

Skirting in Gloss Olive & White Bejmat **tiles**, Wow Design. M-Flower Green **wallpaper**, Maison Martin Morel. **Woodwork** in Vert Souvenir, Chromatic. Stream Wave wooden wall **mirror**, Westwing. AM.PM Quevedo resin **cactus**, La Redoute

MAIN EN SUITE

Glossy chocolate brown tiles and a reflective basin lend a retro-glamorous feel. 'I always embrace the "better too much than too little" aesthetic,' says Louis.

Glossy **wall tiles** in Honey, Wow Design. **Mirror**, H&M Home. **Basin** and **tapware**, Masalledebain.com. Ego **wall light** in Smoke Grey, Paxel Store



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THE DESIGNER

Louis Aspar of Studio Louis Morgan renovated this house for apart-hotel brand Edgar Suites. It's nestled at the end of a cul-de-sac, close to the Eiffel Tower, in the heart of the Passy district.

THE PROPERTY

On the ground floor, there is an open-plan kitchen-diner and living room, a bedroom, bathroom and dressing area. Upstairs, there's a bedroom and bathroom, plus another two bedrooms and bathrooms in the eaves.

There is also a terrace and a sauna.



MAIN BEDROOM

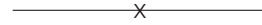
Perched in the building's eaves, this room allows for a bath while overlooking Paris's rooftops. 'We accentuated the room's shape by revealing the beams,' says Louis.

Gioia iroko-finish **table lamp**. The Socialite Family. Matmat **bedside tables**. La Redoute. Split Pea **rug** in Red Rust, Rugvista





THIS SPACE IS LIKE A
HIDDEN JEWEL IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE CITY - IT'S
IN A SUPER-BUSY DISTRICT,
AND YET YOU'D NEVER
KNOW IT WAS THERE



BEDROOM

Louis played to the low ceiling by opting for a two-tone paint effect to create a cocooning atmosphere. 'Every room has a contrasting colour palette and I found the deep blush and mustard tones here invigorating,' he says.

Upper wall in Picture Gallery Red; **lower wall and ceiling in** Shadow White; **headboard in** India Yellow, all Farrow & Ball. AM.PM Moke double cone **wall light**, La Redoute. Luna **rug** in Orange, Verpan

BATHROOM

Tiles in a monochrome stripe serve to elongate the proportions of this narrow space, inspired, says Louis, by the work of interior designer Andrée Putman. 'I chose large scale terrazzo tiles for the same reason,' he says.

Gloss Ebony & White Bejmat **shower tiles**, Wow Design. Custom terrazzo **flooring**, Mosaic Factory. Godmorgon oak **vanity**, Ikea. **Mirror**, H&M Home. **Basins and tapware**, Masalledebain.com

