

ELLE DECORATION

MAY 2024

MALIBU ZEN
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INTERESTING

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THE PORTAL**
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DRAMA TO
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IDEAS FOR
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NEXT BIG THINGS

FUTURE-SHAPING FURNITURE FROM MILAN DESIGN WEEK AND BEYOND





OPEN-DOOR POLICY

A showcase for its owner's own designs, this light-touch Paris apartment is an homage to superlative craft in all its forms

WORDS CAT OLLEY PHOTOGRAPHY PAOLO ABATE STYLING CHARLOTTE DE LA GRANDIÈRE



Piano room Homeowner Marion Stora's 'Soulful' armchair, with its sinuous hand-carved oak armrests, is a favourite piece, upholstered in fabric from Toyine. The Balinese daybed behind it was a travel souvenir; above it hangs a 'Trapeze' wall light from Apparatus, while the ceiling light is Angelo Lelii's 'Tre Lune'. The aubergine and mustard paint shades are Argile's 'Prunus' and 'Gui D'Octobre'

Hallway A low walnut sideboard, dubbed 'Wo Wo Wo', is another piece from Marion's furniture collection. The vintage Paavo Tynell wall light was bought at auction in Finland, and bears a room number in reference to its former life in a hotel. The 'Bobble' vase is by the British ceramicist Abigail Ozora Simpson ►

Ultimately, it was a desire to be nearer their son's school that brought designer Marion Stora and her husband Didier to Paris' well-heeled Golden Triangle, 'just a few steps away from the Eiffel tower'. It is a fitting context for their V-shaped apartment, slotted into the south-east corner of a handsome 19th-century building, where soft light spills through sheer fabric drapes. 'When it's really windy you have to close the windows – it's like you're at the seaside,' says Marion, laughing.

This was a happy inheritance. Beneath high ceilings, historic mouldings remained intact and arched doorways had art nouveau flourishes. Even the herringbone floors needed little more than a polish: 'All we had to do was give it life and soul.'

The family home would double as a stage for Marion's 15-piece furniture collection, which debuted at January's Maison & Objet fair. It is not a showroom as such, but still a place where clients can see hand-crafted tables, cabinets and armchairs in a domestic context – and, hopefully, imagine them in their own homes.

Among the collection is a remarkable dining table made with artist-designers Mauro Mori and Pierre Bonnefille, featuring sculpted Albizia-wood legs that punctuate a softly-coloured top with a chalky finish achieved using a bespoke coating of mineral powders and pigments. 'The inner beauty of the things I create is the ancestral craftsmanship – those details you see only by living with a piece and really appreciating it little by little,' says Marion. The 'fragile' undulating line that snakes across an inky-blue, handwoven rug in her son's bedroom was taken from a drawing he made aged three. A lifelong sailor, Marion wanted to 'transmit the beauty of the depth of the ocean'. 'Something was missing until I found that sketch,' she adds.

The apartment seems so rooted to its location that it comes as a surprise when Marion credits her background in designing yacht interiors – unanchored spaces that must act as their own design ecosystem – as being key to its evolution. 'It was a strict approach that taught me how to use every corner,' she explains. 'But I also wanted comfort and colour.' This was an exercise in left-brain/right-brain alignment, 'a combination of the creative and the rigorous sides of myself'.

Marion's instinct for muted, natural materials ('I tend to move away from marble, glass and metal') is evident as you move through the flowing rooms of her home. It is a series of soft transitions, all arched thresholds and curved walls; in places, long sight lines create an enfilade effect. 'It's what we really loved about the apartment when we first saw it: the perspective you get from one place into another. There is always a nice path between rooms,' she says.

Though deep shades of aubergine and fuchsia swathe the bedrooms and piano room, there is a lightness of touch at every turn. 'I want to feel cocooned by the spaces,' muses Marion. 'But things must have room to breathe'. marionstora.com



Dining room The 'La Mona' dining table from Marion's collection is a collaboration with Pierre Bonnefille and Mauro Mori. Also from the collection are the 'Astrea' solid-oak and leather dining chairs. A sculptural 'Mobile Chandelier 9' by Michael Anastassiades hangs above the table



Living room A vintage, curved green sofa holds court with Finn Juhl's 'Chieftain' chair in walnut nubuck leather. A custom cabinet in bleached sandblasted pine hides the TV, while a fabric 'Mongolfiera' floor lamp by Paola Napoleone provides a soft glow. Commissioned from artist-designer Eric Schmitt, the ceramic coffee table comprises four segments. All sit upon a bespoke hand-woven Venetian rug made by FJ Hakimian



Office Swathed in Argile's 'Gui D'Octobre' paint, this space features shelving by DimoreMilano customised with a leather-wrapped desk level and lower cabinets. The chair is Pierre Chapo's 'S34' and the vintage table lamp with its leather stem is by Angelo Lelii ▶

Son's bedroom A 'Zig-Zag' vessel and 'Picasso' vase by Humble Matter sit atop a solid-oak 'Jeanette' cabinet from Marion's collection, with fuchsia-tinted door panels. The lamp is a 'Terra e Cielo' ('earth and sky') design by Gino Sarfatti for Arteluce. Underfoot is the 'Abysses' rug designed by Marion from a drawing by her son and handwoven by Manufacture Robert Four. Bought at the Piasa auction house in Paris, the painting is by François Raty

Main bedroom The ash bed, with its handmade cane headboard, is Marion's 'Night Welcome' design. It incorporates panels of Madrid 'Moss' tanned leather from Moore & Giles and two olive-ash bedside tables. The aged-brass and suede lights are from Apparatus. Linens from Society Limonta and decorative pillows made from DimoreMilano's 'Special' fabric dress the bed. The ombre curtains are Rosemary Hallgarten's 'Alpaca' fabric in 'Raspberry'. See Stockists page for details [ED](#)

