

Intimate detail

Batiik Studio transforms a Parisian apartment into a poetic, art-filled pied-à-terre for a young expatriate family

Words / Karine Monié Images / Alice Mesguich

Architect Rebecca Benichou launched her practice, Batiik Studio, in Paris in 2014. After a few years of working on her own, Florence Jallet came on board in 2018 as a partner. Perfectly complementing one another, the two women are both influenced by their Mediterranean origins, which are subtly woven into their work. The studio's projects are characterised by a balance of forms, bold colours and the strong desire to tell a story – and their new project honours this approach.

Located in Paris' 3rd arrondissement, in a lively neighbourhood that has a plethora of boutiques and restaurants, the apartment sits within one of the capital's typical Haussmann cut-stone buildings, which dates back to 1860. Owned by a couple of expatriates who mainly live in Amsterdam with their daughter, the pied-à-terre features many elements that have been made to measure by Batiik Studio; artistic curation came courtesy of a collaboration with the nearby Maestria gallery.

Even though this 85 sqm, two-bedroom home had plenty of potential, highlighting the soul of the place and revealing all its beauty was a challenge. "It had a beautiful aura and was bathed in light so we instantly knew that we could design a home with character. But it was very compartmentalised, with a load-bearing wall that separated two areas of the main living space," says Benichou. The pair worked on reorganising everything to create an entrance with a laundry room and to integrate the structural changes: instead of the wall, there is

now a row of structural columns that have been elegantly in-filled with timber shelving.

At the entrance, a round black painting sourced from Parisian gallery Amélie Maison d'Art adorns the wall, sitting above a stool by Léa Zeroil, complemented by a stoneware wall light by Lisa Allegra from Chiara Colombini on the other side. Beyond, an Arsène Welkin painting introduces some colour and leads the eye into the rest of the apartment.

"The homeowners wanted a lot of natural materials, so we used wood, stone and marble," says Benichou. "We chose soft, warm and enveloping tones such as beige and terracotta, with a few green accents."

The team at Batiik Studio decided to sand the front walls to recover the existing cut stone. In the open kitchen, the marble island has become a standout, one-of-a-kind piece in the centre of the room. The charming dining area plays with amorphous shapes, and is furnished with Cloud chairs by Emma Donnersberg (sourced from Galerie Gosserez), in harmony with the Cloud lighting fixtures by JMW Studio. The green hues from the Atelier Wanc artwork on the wall (from Maestria) are picked up in the colour of the top of the bespoke table, which hosts a vase by Camille Romagnani.

"We used the wood and stone as sculptural shapes to create rhythm, like the rounded wood form in the kitchen and the geometric motif of the Paloma stone inlay in the dining

Previous page
Agnès Debizet's
pock-marked
ceramic chair
stands out in a
living room full of
objects that blur
the lines between
art and design

Facing page
The dining area
plays with curvy
forms, from the
bespoke table
to the pendants





“We chose soft, warm and enveloping tones such as beige and terracotta, with a few green accents”

room,” says Jallet. The travertine bathroom has been designed in the same spirit, where the zig-zagging stone surround of the ceramic bath turns it a sculptural piece. A ceramic vase by Héloïse Piraud sits on the corner of the bath, while a painting of a nude by Rosanna Lefeuvre (from Maestria) hangs above; an unglazed stoneware piece (Crescent, by Dutch ceramicist Luna Mara, from Volume Ceramics) rests next to the basin, contributing to the peaceful, almost meditative ambience.

“We drew a lot of inspiration from Jean Touret’s wood craftsmanship and Brancusi’s poetic forms,” says Benichou. Batiik Studio also carefully chose all the fabrics, ensuring a cohesion with the rest of the materials that have been used, and pursuing the idea of a “simple yet inviting atmosphere that gives the feeling of being in a special place”.

The palette evolves toward red in the living room, where Batiik Studio’s large sofa dialogues with a textile artwork by Rosanna Lefeuvre, *La Fenêtre* (another work from Maestria), placed above. On top of the highly textured Agnès Studio rug sits a Boon Room coffee table by Middernacht & Alexander, constructed from recycled diesel tanks. A ceramic chair by Agnès Debizet, the *Composition Linéaire* totem by Jessica Boubetra (from Galerie Yves Gastou), the *Soleil* artwork by Marguerite Piard (from Maestria) and the Allegra wall lamps from Danke Galerie give even more life to this very personal and artistic atmosphere here.

In the main bedroom – where Batiik Studio remade the curtain three times to fulfil the homeowners’ wish to sleep in total darkness – an office area with a bespoke desk and a Gropius CS1 chair by Noom, makes practical use of one corner. Idiosyncratic lighting draws the eye into this area of the room: above the desk, the Wrap Pin pendant by SkLO features a tangled length of glass tubing, while on it is a Jewel table lamp by Kalou Dubus, made from semi-precious stone embedded in concrete. A large painting by Manoela Medeiros (from Double V Gallery) faces the bed.

Above the Elitis fabric of the custom-made headboard in the main bedroom, two Ostro wall lights – comprising a ceramic shell in marble with a glass globe – by Simone & Marcel on the left visually respond to the small Arsène Welkin painting on the right. On the New Wave bedside table by Lukas Cober (from Galerie Gosserez), a Volcan Couleurs Du Ciel 1 vase by Camille Romagnani adds an unexpected touch.

“We wanted to create a dialogue between different eras and evoke a 1970s spirit in an apartment with Haussmann references and a mixed decoration,” says Jallet; both she and Benichou strove to reflect a poetic landscape with “a minimalist spirit and in search of softness”. With all details considered, this inviting Parisian apartment discreetly reveals its grandeur in a quiet visual symphony where everything magically falls into place.

Facing page
Batiik Studio
reconfigured the
layout to create
the new hallway;
the green stool
is by Léa Zeroil