

In love with their home, but having outgrown the space, one family found a unique solution...

Snapping up a second apartment in the same building, they seized the opportunity to create a new, more generous (and colourful) place to live

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PHOTOGRAPHY **BATIIK STUDIO**

Living room The classical proportions, French doors and original fireplace lend this space a timeless feel. Unexpected pops of colour come from the 'T4' lounge chair by Holloway Li for Uma and the painting above the sofa by Julien Saudubray. Said sofa is by Piero Lissoni for Cassina, while the low wooden coffee table, by François Cante-Pacos, and pair of olive chairs are all from Galerie Yves Gastou. The circular patterns on the Elitis cushions reflect the shell-shaped ceramic by Avelina Fuentes in the fireplace. Lighting includes a floor lamp from the 'Horizon' collection by Marie & Alexandre for Signé and a ceramic sconce (above the sofa) by Guy Bareff. The rug is a vintage find ►



So often the problem with apartment living is that over the years, as a family's needs evolve, they are left with no choice but to move. Luckily these owners, who were happily settled in Paris' sixth arrondissement, on the left bank of the Seine, found another solution: buying a second home in the same 17th-century building and combining both properties into a 135-square-metre duplex. 'The layout of their original flat no longer worked for them, so when the one above went on sale in 2021, they didn't miss a beat,' says Rebecca Benichou, founder of interior architecture and design agency Batiik Studio. 'We kept original features such as the parquet flooring and living-room fireplace but rearranged the rooms.' Now, the large entrance hall leads to the social living spaces, study and main bedroom with ensuite, while upstairs is devoted entirely to the two young children, with a pair of bedrooms, their own bathroom and the utility room.

Known for an aesthetic that seamlessly blends contemporary and retro elements, Rebecca and her business partner Florence Jallet chose a sophisticated palette that complements the apartment's classic architecture yet also embraces colour. 'Our clients asked for a warm, cheerful family flat, so we opted for enveloping shades that were occasionally bold, like the sunny yellow of the study walls,' says Florence, citing the kitchen as 'the most important room in our approach to the project'. Previously impractical (narrow and not near the dining room), it was repositioned with flexible living in mind. 'The owners love cooking and entertaining around an island, and the conviviality of this room was at the heart of their wishes. We thought of the kitchen as a hybrid space that can either become part of the dining room or be closed off with glass doors.'

Colour aside, rooms are also dramatised through the inventive use of texture and pattern, such as the leopard-print carpet that adds interest to the study and the graphic, abstract rug in the entrance hall. 'For us, details are never secondary; they take on real importance. One of the most successful aspects of the apartment was the made-to-measure joinery in the different spaces, which creates a visual thread,' continues Florence, citing the kitchen units with their unusual black plinths and the two-tone mid-century-style bookcases in the main bedroom as examples.

'Our work is quite expressive and, for us, creating a coherent, singular universe is important. We like to emphasise the importance of form and relief in our projects,' Rebecca explains of another successful design trick: the juxtaposition of sculptural shapes throughout, from the bathtub that resembles a block of carved stone to the Jenga-like dining chairs by French artist-maker Eloi Schultz. And what do the owners love the most? 'The kitchen and the curving wooden staircase, both of which are central features with strong character that give the flat its unique identity.' *batiik.fr*



Dining room Reeded-glass doors between this space and the adjoining kitchen mean that it can be opened up into a single large space for entertaining. Green 'In Praise of Epicurus' chairs by Ettore Sottsass and wooden 'The Absent' seats by French designer and sculptor Eloi Schultz are arranged around a modern black table – for similar, try the extendable 'Etta' from Habitat ➤

Dining room A large 'Akari' light by Isamu Noguchi for Vitra hangs over the dining table and a colourful abstract painting by Caroline Denervaud, propped against a wall, brings a blast of colour to this space. The decorative objects on the table include a vase by Marie et Alexandre at La Romaine Editions and a vintage black bowl



Kitchen Bespoke wooden cupboards are paired with a mid-green marble splashback and island in the scheme, which is further lightened by sky-blue walls (try 'Window Blue' by Sanderson for similar) and tiles inspired by the traditional red of bricks – Fired Earth offers designs in this style. The scone is by Jean Roger at The Invisible Collection and the glass dish on the island is from Habitat ►



Study With a leopard-print carpet by Madeleine Castaing and scone by India Mahdavi on cosy yellow walls, this office is far from a dull work zone. The owner's vintage desk, 'Zig-Zag' chair by Gerrit Rietveld and Hiromi Objets lamp add a retro touch

Entrance hall A single pink-marble step contrasts beautifully with the warm parquet flooring and wooden curved staircase. The rug (just visible) is an abstract vintage design ➤





‘Our clients wanted a warm, cheerful feel, so we opted for enveloping shades’

Main bedroom A rough-luxe textile from Elitis hanging behind the bed provides a focal point in lieu of a headboard. Blush-pink cushions (also from Elitis) co-ordinate with a feature wall behind the bespoke bookshelves, made in two-tone wood. The silver bedside light hanging from the ceiling is a vintage design, and the vase on the bedside table is by GoJu Ceramics [See Stockists page for details](#) **ED**