

BRIGHTEN UP YOUR PLACE WITH BOLD COMBINATIONS

INSIDE

INSPIRING HOMES WITH HEART

246
vibrant
style buys

**DO I REALLY
NEED A BANK
CHEQUE?**

A step-by-step
guide to buying
property

**GARDEN
GOALS**

A small
space full of
big ideas

FIND THE PERFECT PALETTE FOR YOUR HOME

choose
COLOUR!

Scared to commit? 10 of the best dining chairs

Vanessa Colyer Tay's
paint makeovers

Shannon's guide to
windows & doors



paris in BLOOM

Bold colour and pattern choices have turned a classic Parisian apartment into a modern family home


WORDS DELPHINE ESTOUR & VICTORIA BAKER

STYLING SANDRINE ECHIVARD PHOTOGRAPHY GERMAIN SUIGNARD

cheat sheet

Who lives here: Delphine Estour, an interior designer; her husband, Hubert; and their children, Celeste, 20; Josephine, 18; Arthus, 15; and Philomene, 13.

Style of home: A 205 square-metre 19th-century apartment in Paris, renovated to include five bedrooms, three bathrooms and two offices.

 Delphine spent two-and-a-half months reworking the interiors of the apartment.

LIVING AREA Élitis 'Kandy' and Sanderson 'Poppies' wallpapers make for a bold combination. The vibrant walls are tempered by the custom deep-purple sofa, Gervasoni 'Ghost' armchair and white Zanotta storage unit. Caravane cushions and a large pink cowhide rug pop against the herringbone flooring.



When Emperor Napoléon III set Georges-Eugène Haussmann the task of redesigning Paris in the 1850s, it was a crowded and chaotic place. But Haussmann succeeded in a transformation, which brought light, air and beauty to the city, creating wide boulevards and lining them with elegant stone-fronted buildings.

In one such 'Haussmannian' apartment, indistinguishable from the outside from thousands of others, interior designer Delphine Estour (pictured above) has created a resolutely individual home. "Even in projects that seem classical, I always try to create something different by adding genuine personality without going over the top," she says.

This project had extra significance; the apartment has been home to Delphine, her husband and their four children since their move to the city from Provence in 2012. She fell in love with its generous proportions, as well as the chance to fit both her family home and office into the same space. "The apartment had to be a place for the life of a large family, cheerful and warm," she says. This meant sacrificing a large master bedroom to create an office and two bathrooms, as well as transforming a room between two bedrooms into a bathroom. The resulting floorplan has space for everyone, with separate offices for Delphine and Hubert, as well as a second living room for the kids.

Joyful colour fills the home, highlighting the classic architectural features while minimising any old-fashioned formality. In the main living room, turquoise paint is splashed over the ceiling-height window frames, door frames and the intricate moulding above. "I used colourful, mismatched wallpapers in this room; they showcase the wall panelling and mouldings while softening the more austere side of Haussmann style," says Delphine. A custom-made purple sofa



LIVING AREA (above) A collection of convex Sentou mirrors dot the wall over a slim timber table, against a background of Élitis wallpaper. **KITCHEN & DINING AREA (opposite)** A repurposed vintage milliner's table and matching high chairs are a bold addition to the modern IKEA kitchen. A mosaic-tiled splashback ensures this space stays true to the vibrant colour and pattern theme seen throughout the rest of the home.



“The apartment had to be a place for the life of a large family, cheerful and warm”

DELPHINE ESTOUR, HOMEOWNER



and a pink cowhide are complemented by playful additions, including a blue knitted ottoman and a yellow Jieldé lamp.

Just off this room is the large kitchen, Delphine's favourite spot in the house. "When our friends come over, we stay in this room and we talk around the table," says Delphine. "When I cook, my husband and children come and talk to me or work in here." The IKEA cabinetry has been painted in a deep grey, while an old milliner's table and chairs add character, topped by a trio of glass bead pendant lights found at the famous markets of L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue in Provence. "I decorated the kitchen like a dining room," says Delphine.

In the master bedroom, the exuberant colour is toned down a little with grey walls, furniture and linen, but pale aqua touches mean there's still an element of the kaleidoscope of colour that characterises the home. Delphine's approach has resulted in a look that respects the home's history while functioning well for its very modern inhabitants. "I think this is the first time I've gone so far with colour," says Delphine. "But I know that this apartment is also a beautiful showcase of what I can offer my clients." Haussmann himself would surely approve of her imaginative approach. ¹⁰

To see more of Delphine's work, visit delphine-estour.com.





star performer

Traditional mouldings and wood panelling throughout the apartment are given a softer contemporary edge with a lick of contrasting paint.

LIVING AREA (opposite, left & top right) Bright turquoise paint brings fun, modern energy to the intricate mouldings above the door. A curated collection is displayed on the shelves of the wall-mounted desk. **SITTING AREA** (opposite, below right) The yellow-accented Designheure lamp hangs over a generous sofa and Habitat ottoman, beside a Phillippe de Watteville painting. **HALLWAY** Deeper grey tones create a visually calming zone. Eno Studio 'Talking Heads' wall hooks keep everyday items handy.



lessons learnt

*“I WISH I HAD INCLUDED A SOFA
BED FOR MY MOTHER OR
FRIENDS WHO COME TO STAY”*

DELPHINE ESTOUR, HOMEOWNER

“This would mean we could avoid one of the children having to give up their room to guests so often. If you love having guests to stay, create a dedicated area for them.”



JOSEPHINE'S BEDROOM Cushions by La Cerise Sur Le Gâteau ('The Cherry on the Cake') decorate the bed. Photographs by Paris-native David Law are a fun addition to the minimalist white palette. Textured wallpaper adds interest and a feminine touch without overpowering the space.

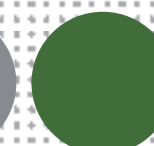
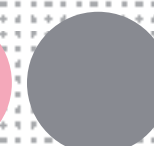
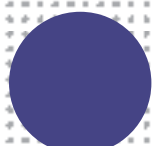


bright idea

Entering this all-white bedroom is like stepping into another world. Give sleeping zones a relaxing vibe by using one tone. Here, timber floorboards are also painted white, maintaining the tranquil atmosphere of the space.

colour story

Soft pastels in blue, green and pink are highlighted by vibrant yellows and deeper teal tones. Charcoal and white act as a calming base throughout.





paint palette

'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior **paint** in Jello Mint, \$57.50/4L, British Paints, britishpaints.com.au.

'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior **paint** in Nile Lily, \$62.50/4L, British Paints, as before.

'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior **paint** in Velvet Slipper, \$57.50/4L, British Paints, as before.

'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior **paint** in Bullet Proof, \$61.60/4L, British Paints, as before.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCT SOURCING: NATALIE JOHNSON. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

3 GREAT FINDS



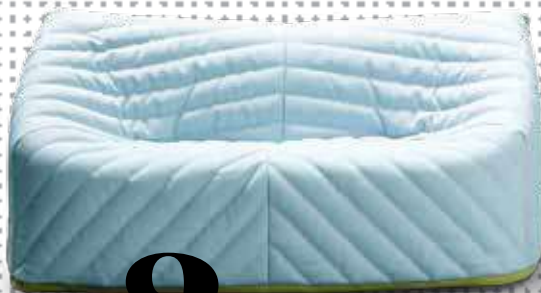
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'Gervasoni' 'Ghost 05' armchair, \$2085, Anibou, anibou.com.au.



2

Cowhide rug in Rose, \$1240/240cm x 205cm, Zohi Interiors, zohiinteriors.com.au.



3

Sancal 'Barnaby' sofa, from \$4164.30, Ke-Zu, kezuzo.com.au.



BATHROOM (opposite) Glass mosaic tiles add a riot of colour and pattern to the bathroom. Muted grey tiles connect this space to the rest of the home. **MASTER BEDROOM** Two-toned bedding from AM.PM. creates a welcoming sleeping zone underneath Patricia Urquiola 'Caboche' wall lights from Foscarini.