

SHIMMER & SHINE

This glittering Parisian
pad brings the glamour of
party season year-round

KITCHEN

'The metal curtains were a crazy idea that somehow worked,' says owner and designer Laurence. 'Everyone said I was mad, but look how beautifully they filter the light.'

Marble **tables**, Polspotten at Galerie LSd. **Cup**, H&M Home. **Teapot** and **bowls**, bought in Japan. Roly Poly **chair**, Faye Toogood at Driade. **Cast artwork** by John Henderson

PHOTOGRAPHY Birgitta Wolfgang Bjørnvad/The Sisters Agency
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ENTRANCE

'The brass cabinet wall was inspired by a hotel I stayed at in Tokyo,' says Laurence. 'I knew I wanted that warm metal welcome the moment you walk in, something that would make people stop and say "wow" but not feel intimidated.' The storage hidden behind the doors proves that functionality and beauty can go hand in hand.

Walls in Bois Bouchon, Argile. Custom brass-covered cabinets, Laurence Simoncini





KITCHEN

'Everyone thought the yellow would be too much with all the stainless steel, but I knew the warm colour would balance the industrial elements,' says Laurence. 'Now friends always gravitate here – it's become the heart of the apartment.'

Walls in Curry, Argile. Custom **window seat** and stainless-steel **kitchen units**, all Laurence Simoncini. Calan **chair**, Westwing

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he couple who lived here before had two children and very classical Parisian taste,' says designer Laurence Simoncini, gesturing around her transformed Marais apartment. 'Dark floors, white walls – you know, completely predictable.' It's hard to imagine it now when surrounded by the warm ochre walls and gleaming brass surfaces that make up her current home.

When Laurence took over the space nearly two years ago, she knew exactly what she wanted to achieve. 'I chose to use two feng shui themes: earth and metal,' she explains, settling into one of her bronze velour sofas. It's a philosophy that's evident in every corner – from the many different shades of ochre on the walls to the brass cabinet doors that catch and multiply the already abundant light.

The transformation started with the floor. Gone is the original dark flooring, replaced with concrete that has been lacquered in soft sand tones. 'It's like a mirror,' says Laurence and she's right – everything reflects off it beautifully, creating an illusion of infinite space. Contributing to the shimmering effect are those brass doors, a large antique mirror and even the stainless-steel kitchen surfaces.

What strikes you most about Laurence's home isn't just its looks, but how lived-in it feels. 'I wanted lounge areas, not formal rooms,' she says, explaining how she's divided the large living space into intimate conversation nooks. Oversized poufs in long-haired goatskin dot the floor like sculptural islands, perfect for an impromptu glass of wine or afternoon reading session.

The colour story is particularly striking. While most people might balk at drenching their kitchen in Curry, a shade of yellow by paint specialist Argile, Laurence knew exactly what she was doing. 'The warm colour balances all the metal,' she explains. 'Stainless-steel, brass, metal curtains – without the curry walls, it would be too cold.' The cheerful shade of Jaune Buxy in the living room and the calming Bois Bouchon in her private quarters, both also by Argile, complete the flat's ochre trilogy.

Laurence's passion for art and design is evident everywhere, but never feels overwhelming. So, for example, John Henderson's *Cast* artwork anchors the kitchen, while Pierre Bonnefille's *Bronze*

LIVING ROOM

The kitchen flows naturally into this space, separated only by the cooking island and the brass storage cabinet that divides the kitchen and the entrance.

Long-haired goatskin pouf, Maison de Vacances



painting provides a dramatic backdrop in the living room. Even the functional pieces, such as Dirk van der Kooij's Satellite lamp and Lucas Zito's Buoy light sculpture, blur the line between furniture and art. 'I love that everything has a story,' says Laurence, pointing to Japanese ceramics collected during travels and a coffee table discovered in London. Her showroom might be designed to look like a home, but this apartment feels genuinely personal – a space where her chosen feng shui principles create harmony, but without sacrificing personality.

The apartment's party trick is its light. With windows stretching from bedroom to kitchen, every surface seems to glow. 'Lumière traversante,' says Laurence with satisfaction. 'It's what every Parisian dreams of.' In her hands, that flowing light becomes another design element, caught and multiplied by all those reflective surfaces, until the entire space feels almost like a hall of mirrors. It's particularly magical during this season, but also brilliant year-round.

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LIVING ROOM

'My friends gave me the **Bronze painting** by Pierre Bonnefille,' says Laurence. 'I'm thrilled with it - it's become the soul of this room.'

Walls in Jaune Buxy, Argile. **Boho sofas**, Maison de Vacances. **Bronze strip lamp** (above centre sofa), Anour. **Dining table**, Piet Hein Eek at Galerie LSd. **Tube floor lamp** (behind dining table), Silhouet Lighting. **Woven stool**, La Maison Française. **White Buoy lamp**, Lucas Zito. **Art** (right), Pepe Valenti

The image shows a contemporary living room with warm, earthy tones. Two olive green velvet sofas are positioned on a light-colored floor. A tall, white, ribbed vase stands in the background. A large, circular mirror is mounted on the wall. A text box is overlaid on the right side of the image.

The download

THE OWNER/DESIGNER

This apartment in the Marais is owned by the interior designer Laurence Simoncini, who runs her practice and gallery, LSd, from a showroom on Rue Aubriot. Her move into interiors came after a career in advertising, followed by launching children's boutique Serendipity.

THE PROPERTY

The apartment occupies one floor of a period building renovated in 2015. The space divides into two zones: the kitchen, living room, guest bedroom and bathroom at one end and the main suite and bathroom, accessible through sliding doors.

BEDROOM

'The Eclipse lamp creates beautiful shadows at night,' says Laurence.

Walls in Milano, Argile.
Eclipse **wall lamp** by
Tilen Sepič, Galerie LSd.
Ptolomeo **shelf**, Bruno
Rainaldi. Metal **stool**, H&M
Home. **Bedding**, Zoeppritz



BATHROOM

The walls and ceiling are finished with a warm, neutral-coloured resin, while the existing bath has become something of a sculptural statement on the varnished concrete floor. 'I wanted this space to feel transformative - with its powdered resin finish and the light flowing through it,' says Laurence.

Similar **bath**, Lusso. Woven **rug** (on wall), Caravane. **Vase**, Asiatides



TWO FENG SHUI THEMES - EARTH AND
METAL - INFLUENCED THE DECOR AND THE WARM
COLOURS BALANCE THE METALS BEAUTIFULLY

BEDROOM

'This is my sanctuary,' says Laurence. 'I chose purple accents because they're unexpected - everyone expects beige or white in bedrooms. The colour makes me happy.'

Walls in Bois Bouchon, Argile. **Platonic Heaven artwork** by Aaron Young. **Marble bedside table**, Audo Copenhagen. **Marble-effect candle**, oOumm. **Bottle sculpture** by Paola Paronetto.

Floor lamp, Neptune Glassworks (LA). **Bedding**, Society Limonta