

ELLE DECORATION

THE
STYLE
MAGAZINE
FOR YOUR
HOME
MAY 2016
£4.40

STYLE FOR LIFE

*Inside the #EDapartment
The best show home in the world!*



EASY UPDATES

35 quick ways to make your home brighter, lighter and better
Plus the four big colour and pattern trends you need to know

STORAGE SOLUTIONS

How to clear your clutter (properly) and stay sane

ZEN OR BAROQUE?

Find the right designer for your style

MIDNIGHT IN PARIS

*Deep, rich colours and imaginative
details add an air of mystery and romance
to this period property in Montmartre*

Words **EMMA LOVE**
Photography **GAELLE LE BOULICAUT**
Production **JEREMY CALLAGHAN**



Kitchen The iron tree branch, used as a shelf, was found at a vintage market. The homeowner inherited the collection of crockery from her father. The circular black dining table is a flea market find and the three lights that hang above are all from an art dealer in Paris ►



French ex-pro basketball player **Pierre Traversier** and his partner Rozemarijn de Witte, a former magazine editor and author, fell in love with this 19th-century, two-bedroom, four-floor property in the Montmartre area of Paris before they'd even set foot inside. 'Roze called and said "I think I've found the perfect house", so I drove over on my scooter and, as soon as I saw the light in the courtyard, I knew,' recalls Pierre of that moment seven years ago. 'It was a Friday and on the Monday we put in an offer.' The couple previously lived in an apartment in the 6th arrondissement ('we had to move out because Pierre's basketball shoe collection grew too big,' jokes Roze), but for Pierre, who was born in Montmartre, moving here felt like coming home. 'I love the atmosphere of this area; the glow from the street lights is very romantic and makes it feel like the Paris of years ago.'

From the outset, the couple wanted to preserve the original features of the interior. 'I firmly believe that the history of a house should be respected,' explains Pierre. 'This is a home with lots of little rooms and I wanted to keep it that way.' An old garage at the side of the open-plan kitchen was replaced with a glass extension of the same size – the framework is painted in Emery & Cie's 'Crotte d'Elephant' (Elephant Dung) to match the kitchen walls. 'When French people visit, they immediately connect the dark shades with what are commonly described as the colours of the North Sea, but I've never thought of it that way. I like colours that are dirty and unexpected; ones that have their own strong character and can't be classified immediately,' says Roze.

'I like colours that are dirty and unexpected; ones that have their own strong character and can't be classified immediately'

Complementing the punchy palette is an array of furniture that the couple have picked up from flea markets and antique dealers on their travels. They buy what they like – even if they don't initially have a place for it. 'If we find an object, something that looks like it could work as a door handle for example, we'll take it home. When we told the carpenter that we wanted to use a collection of old Parisian umbrella handles on the kitchen cupboards he thought we were nuts,' says Pierre.

Inevitably, some of the couple's collection will end up in their latest project, Los Enamorados, a new hotel in the north of Ibiza. 'We went on holiday there six years ago and then bought a house. I used to have a juice bar in Paris so we initially wanted to set up a beach bar, but we couldn't find the right site,' says Pierre. 'Instead, we fell instantly in love with another building – just as we did here.' losenamoradosibiza.com



Top Pierre Traversier and Rozemarijn de Witte with their cat Bigote (which means moustache in Spanish)
Living room (inset) The walls are painted in 'Absinthe' by Emery & Cie. The sofa is from French label Alm and the 'Egg' chair is an Arne Jacobsen design for Fritz Hansen. Try 1st Dibs for similar brass leaf wall lights
Stockist details on p247



Kitchen (this page and opposite) The homeowners describe this area of the glass-and-steel extension as the 'winter garden'. A secondhand coffee table is paired with 'LCW' lounge chairs by Charles and Ray Eames for Herman Miller – try The Conran Shop in the UK
Stockist details on p247



'When French people visit, they connect the dark shades with what are commonly described as the colours of the North Sea'



Kitchen The sideboard with the built-in sink is a converted florist's workbench. The wooden table is surrounded by a mixture of chairs, including a black wire 'SM05' by Cees Braakman and Adriaan Dekker for Pastoe (far left), the 'Series 7' by Arne Jacobsen for Fritz Hansen and designs by Charles and Ray Eames. The leather and straw rug was bought in Mauritania, Africa
Stockist details on p247



Kitchen A collection of umbrella handles are used on the cupboard fronts and the small curtain under the sink was made using a teatowel owned by Roze's mother

CRAFTING ORIGINALITY

We take a closer look at Emery & Cie, the brand behind this home's beautiful tiles and moody paint palette

Homeowner Rozemarijn de Witte loves 'colours that have their own strong character.' That's why she and partner Pierre Traversier went to Belgian label Emery & Cie to buy the paints and tiles that lend their home its unique look. The brand specialises in ultra-matt, natural casein (dried milk) paints and zelliges, a type of handmade Moroccan tile, all in dramatic shades.

Emery & Cie was founded by Belgian architect and designer Agnès Emery in 1993. As a child she was close to her grandfather, a mirror-maker who encouraged her love of colour. Training as an architect at Brussels University in the 1970s, Emery rebelled against the prevailing Modernist orthodoxy that dictated she should work with plain white walls. She taught architecture for eight years, but then abandoned it to restore Art Nouveau interiors and paint murals.

Emery was working on the restoration of famous Art Nouveau brasserie Bouillon Racine in Paris when she began

Emery & Cie's sole designer, although the brand has recently unveiled a collection of floral tiles produced in collaboration with French artist Nathalie Lété. Everything

Emery sells is handmade and often bespoke, but she demurs when asked to define her aesthetic, saying only that it's somewhere on the design spectrum 'between baroque and minimalism'.

Art Nouveau remains a major inspiration, but Emery cites nature as another muse. Her palette for tiles and paints is strong on botanical greens (like the 'Absinthe' shade used in this home's living room), sky blues and hues borrowed from earth, leaves, flowers and fruit. Alongside her signature zelliges you'll also find marble tiles (made in India near the Taj Mahal), pretty polished shell tiles from the Philippines, delicate furniture, ironmongery, fabrics and wallpapers.

In London, Emery & Cie has a showroom at Retrouvius' Kensal Green premises. We also recommend visiting its Brussels headquarters, situated in an old industrial building designed by Emery's hero Victor Horta. emeryetcie.com ➤



Emery & Cie's palette is strong on botanical greens, sky blues and hues borrowed from earth, leaves, flowers and fruit

manufacturing her own furniture and finishes, having been unable to find pieces she liked for the restaurant elsewhere. Combining her love of the Arts & Crafts movement and the work of Belgian Art Nouveau architect Victor Horta with her passion for travel, she sought out artisans in Morocco who produced zelliges and wrought-iron furniture, makers of glass and mirrored tiles in India, and rugmakers in Nepal. She has since started working with potters in Vietnam and textile and paint manufacturers in her native Belgium. Her idea was to synthesise traditions from all over the world to create a unique style: to this day she remains

Tiles 'Zelliges' tiles in 'Bleu Gris Clair', £55 per square metre, Emery & Cie

Paints, from top 'Muscat'; 'Absinthe'; 'Ocre'; 'Bleu d'Orage', all £21 per kilogram, Emery & Cie
Stockist details on p247





Bathroom The zinc tub is from a specialist shop in the Netherlands (try Anton & K in the UK). The wall mirror installation is by Marrakesh-based designer Corinne Bensimon. **Bedroom** The salvaged bed was originally from a palace in Portugal. The lamp is an early Knoll edition and the bedlinen is from Society Limonta. **Stockist details on p247** 



'I firmly believe that the history of a house should be respected. This is a home with lots of little rooms and I wanted to keep it that way'