



Located in Ainay, a historic neighbourhood known as Lyon's design district, this 400-square-metre, 19th-century apartment belongs to Pierre Emmanuel Martin and Stéphane Garotin, the French couple behind design consultancy and interiors brand Maison Hand. 'It's difficult to find an apartment here because these houses tend to stay in the same family for many generations. We were lucky to find ours,' says Pierre, who, along with Stéphane, put a lot of time and effort into reviving the property's ornate interior. 'We restored all the original wooden panelling and tried to preserve as many of the fixtures and fittings as possible.'

Alterations to the flow of the house were minimal, but the couple have transformed the former dining room into a spacious kitchen/diner that is perfect for entertaining – they are both keen cooks and seldom dine alone. 'It's a rather special layout, because the whole building wraps around a large courtyard,' Pierre says. 'You can walk around the entire apartment in a loop, which makes the space feel much bigger than it is. We can see from room to room via the internal windows and all the major external windows face south, so it always feels very bright and airy.'

To maximise light, Pierre and Stéphane chose a palette of pale neutrals, using the same shade of paint on the walls throughout the whole house (a grey-beige hue created with the help of a friend who owns an organic paint company). The simple scheme is brought to life with the duo's trademark mix of contemporary designs, global treasures and soft furnishings. Bespoke Moroccan rugs line the original parquet floors, which have been stripped back and oiled for a more natural finish; graphic, monochrome wall art offsets the intricate woodwork; and rough-hewn handmade pieces are displayed throughout with a curator's skill. 'Every time we travel we try and find a piece to bring home with us,' says Pierre, referencing the vast collection of pottery and cookware that forms a striking centrepiece in the sleek Boffi kitchen.

The finished home is a beautifully balanced combination of elements that perfectly embody the couple's aesthetic; a convivial, liveable scheme infused with an air of understated luxury. 'We wanted the interior to be elegant, clean, and easy to live in,' concludes Pierre. 'It's a very relaxed space. I feel as if we have been living here forever.' maison-hand.com

Living room Striking floor lamps – 'Luminator' by Achille and Pier Giacomo Castiglioni for Flos (right), a Serge Mouille design (top) and a 'Mahari' by William Pianta for Luminaire (opposite) – stand in contrast to the restored period woodwork **Stockist details on p207 ►**





CLASSIC BEAUTY

This serene, elegant 19th-century French apartment is a refined mix of iconic designs and sleek antiques

Words **TESSA PEARSON**

Photography **FELIX FOREST/LIVING INSIDE**



Living room The capacious sofas were designed by the homeowners and are part of Maison Hand's 'Abito' range. Along with a vintage Eames lounge chair (above), they surround a 'Platner' coffee table by Knoll and a striking black table by Il Laboratorio Dell'imperfetto. Floor lights by Isamu Noguchi and Arne Jacobsen add to the modern feel **Stockist details on p207 ►**

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