

In one corner of the living room, designer Sarah Lavoine's modern art and vibrant coffee table offer a pleasing counterpoint to the apartment's original oak parquet floors and gorgeous mouldings. A vintage lamp from the 1950s adds a touch of glam to the artful vignette. **Coffee table**, Yves Klein; **vintage lamp**, *Objet de curiosité*; **birds painting** by Brigitte Waldach, M+B; **photos** (on table), Mona Kuhn.

# THE POWER *of* COLOUR

DESIGNER SARAH LAVOINE ENERGIZES HER PARISIAN FLAT WITH BRIGHT HUES, BOLD ART AND A MIX OF ELEGANT AND ECLECTIC FURNITURE.



A Mondrian-like wall treatment gives the dining room upbeat energy, though Sarah says she wasn't directly inspired by the modernist painter. "I am a fan of his work, but I just love to match bright colours with black and white," she says. "A horizontal stripe around the middle of a room is a great way to break up big blocks of colour." A mix of seating feels unfussy, while the marble fireplace is a stately anchor in the mod space. **Chairs, bench, wall colours** (Jaune Tournesol, Radis Noir, Blanc Jasmin), Sarah Lavoine; **dining table**, Kara Mobilier; **lamp**, Florence Lopez.





**LEFT:** Homeowner and designer Sarah Lavoine in the living room of her apartment in Paris' First Arrondissement. **Panda statue, Jiji.**

**ALL IT TAKES** is a single step inside Sarah Lavoine's impossibly glam apartment to see why the Paris-based interior designer is a Gallic favourite. Bold splashes of colour and edgy contemporary art are anchored by centuries-old architectural details and amazing views. "My windows overlook some of the most beautiful monuments in Paris — the Louvre, the Jardin des Tuileries, the Musée d'Orsay ... I'm very lucky to live here," she says. In fact, when her family outgrew their previous space, the top item on her wishlist was staying in the First Arrondissement. She found a most suitable replacement: this fourth-floor flat with soaring ceilings and plenty of room for the family — her husband Marc Lavoine, the French singer and actor, and kids, Yasmine, 17, Roman, 8, and Milo, 5 — to spread out. It didn't need structural work, so Sarah focused on updating it in her signature rebel-cool style. (She comes by her aesthetic sense honestly: she's a member of Poland's aristocratic Poniatowski family, so literally a princess, plus her mother was an interior designer, and her father edited French *Vogue* for 15 years.) The final result is a gorgeous space that balances classic Parisian charm with modern touches.



The principal bedroom is a spacious retreat. In one corner, a minimalist Jean Prouvé chaise and painting by French artist Fabrice Hybert provide “an aesthetic area in a room generally reserved for sleeping,” Sarah says. Another marble fireplace lends elegance and heft, while her children’s art is a lighthearted addition to the space. **Articulated lamp** (on mantel), Florence Lopez; **painting** (above chaise), Fabrice Hybert.





The living room is the most classic room in the apartment. Its quiet black and white palette is a deliberate counterpoint to the juicy hues in the rest of the home. Sarah found the vintage chairs at Paris' famous Saint-Ouen antiques market; they add organic texture to the elegant room, while a fashionable statue — Chinese artist Jiji's sartorial panda — is a playful addition that nods to her eclectic style.

**Wall colour,** Blanc Jasmin, Yasmine **sofa,** Sarah Lavoine; **framed photography,** M+B; **sculpture (on mantel),** Nathalie Decoster.



**TOP RIGHT:** The dark kitchen floor is covered in a sisal-look plastic — a practical choice for this busy family of five — that nevertheless feels elevated alongside dark lower cabinetry and crisp white walls. Overhead, a pair of oversized pendant lights by Cecilie Manz draws the eye up, while a green Tolix table adds a friendly splash of colour. **Door colour,** Radis Noir, **wall colour,** Blanc Jasmin, Sarah Lavoine; **floor,** Bolon.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** In the library, a vibrant turquoise accent wall functions as a huge frame around a photo by Jill Greenberg. The dusky velvet sofa is a cosy spot to curl up with a book, while a graphic light fixture adds pattern overhead. **Milo sofa,** wall colour, Bleu Indien, Sarah Lavoine; **Vertigo ceiling fixture,** Constance Guisset; **table,** Victoria Wilmutte; **small lamp,** Michel Klein.

The principal bath is a serene retreat. "I always think bathrooms should be simple and functional — though still beautiful, of course," Sarah says. Large flagstone tiles extend across the floor and partway up the walls, a move that feels quietly chic. A clean-lined vintage wood bench sits askew, another example of the compelling power of simple beauty.





Bright blue doors branch off the main entryway, offsetting the original oak chevron floor and high ceilings. A pair of oversized rattan lampshades is an organic addition to the narrow space, while a gallery wall of tiny Polaroids taken by Sarah's husband, Marc, is a personal touch. The huge pink ball and blue pearl motif fixed to the wall are other playful hits of colour. **Rattan lampshades** by Paola Navone, Gervasoni; **bench**, Saint-Ouen antiques market; **blue wall motif**, Julie Cheng.



“I LOVE COLOUR BECAUSE YOU CAN PLAY WITH IT. MY FAVOURITE COMBINATIONS ARE TURQUOISE AND PLUM, BLUE AND KHAKI, AND BLACK AND YELLOW. BUT BLACK IS MY FAVOURITE — I LIKE THAT YOU CAN PAIR IT WITH BRIGHT, BOLD COLOURS”

**TOP:** In 17-year-old Yasmine’s room, the apartment’s classic good looks got a totally modern makeover. Painting half the wall in a rich berry hue topped with a black band infuses the room with colour, but doesn’t feel overwhelming. The oak chevron floors were painted a fresh white — and then promptly covered with words of affection scrawled in Sharpie. (“Yasmine asks all her friends to sign it when they come over,” Sarah explains. “I love it!”)



In the principal bedroom, a leggy dining table takes the place of a desk, providing a spot to display books and small treasures or set up a laptop. A Moroccan rug provides subtle colour, while a casual grouping of mirrors — part of Sarah's product line, which is available at Barneys New York — is a unique take on the gallery wall. **Bedding**, Secret Maison; **throw**, Merci; Caravane **table**, Mini Me Organique **wall mirrors**, Sarah Lavoine.

“MY GOAL WAS TO CREATE AN INTERIOR THAT IS WARM AND CONTEMPORARY, BUT ALSO TIMELESS. I LOVE MIXING STYLES AND PERIODS”



## BOLD MOVE: BRIGHT YELLOW



A vintage lamp feels especially glam against sunny yellow walls

GET THE LOOK

## LIVABLE LOOK: DEEP BLUE



Sarah's Hues

Arsenic (214), Farrow & Ball.

Dark Cobalt Blue (PPU15-3), Behr.

Bright Yellow (2022-30), Benjamin Moore.

Garneta (P315-5), Para Paints.

## THE NEUTRALS

< Sarah used oversized woven pendants to add natural texture to her entry. Pendant by Palecek. Rattan; rope. 18¼" h. x 15½" diam. \$897. At Cocoon Furnishings.



> Wide-weave wicker and a glossy black metal frame give this curvy armchair a graphic feel. Raphia chair by Casamania. Wicker; rattan; metal. 29½" h. x 21½" w. x 20¾" d. \$1,350. At Suite 22 Interiors.



## THE ACCENTS



▲ A bright yellow range is bold and playful. Professional Series 36" Induction Range. \$5,499. Through Bertazzoni.



▲ Sarah used the larger version of these mirrors in her flat. Mini Me Organique mirror by Sarah Lavoine. Painted steel. 13¾" x 9¼". Approx. \$460. Through Barneys New York.

Get the Look: Produced by Jennifer Koper/Photography by Felix Forest, Living Inside (yellow room, blue room)

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