

French polish

The spirit of the 1950s lives on in every room of this elegant Bordeaux house.
By Hannah Booth



This grand 1850s house in Bordeaux, complete with a bijoux courtyard garden, owes more than a little debt to a decade that came a century later. From furniture and lighting to abstract ceramics, the 1950s - a muted, rather than a screamingly retro version - are felt in every corner. When owner Ninou Etienne, an interior architect, bought the property, its plumbing and heating hadn't been updated since the 50s, either. It was divided into three apartments - complete with a kitchen in each - and nasty lino covered every floor.

Etienne has chosen a palette of greys, whites, natural wood - and sunshine yellow for the kitchen. A gunmetal grey covers a fireplace and feature wall in the living room, and weaves its way through the house on the stairs and skirting boards (for similar, try Plummett from Farrow & Ball or Silver Mine by Crown, from Homebase).

Formica tables, 50s ceramics, a contemporary flying-saucer pendant and vintage armchairs upholstered in Sanderson's classic 50s Hayward fabric complete the look. Most of the furniture is chiné - a charming French word suggestive of a vintage bargain unearthed in a dusty brocante market. "I love breathing new life into old objects," Etienne says. "And we wanted the 50s to live on in every room."

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Living room

Far left: The **pendant light** is Vertigo by Constance Guisset (constanceguisset.com). The **armchair** is upholstered in Sanderson's Hayward fabric (sanderson-uk.com). For a similar black **table/stool**, try Moooi's container stool, £159; Moooi's carbon chair, £633, is similar to the cobweb **armchair**, both from Utility Design (utilitydesign.co.uk). For similar **dining chairs**, try vintage Danish furniture specialists, such as Sigmar (sigmarlondon.com) or Elliott & Tate (elliottandtate.com).

Study

Left: The **wallpaper** is Mediterranea by Fornasetti from Cole & Son (cole-and-son.com). For a similar **desk**, try the walnut Cornell, £279, from made.com, or the pricier De La Espada Orson desk, by Matthew Hilton, £2,946, from Heal's (heals.co.uk), which also sells **retro phones** by Wild & Wolf. »

Kitchen

Mister David emulsion, £32.50/2.5l, from Little Greene (littlegreene.com) is a good match for the **yellow walls**. The black **pendant** is £160 from Habitat (habitat.co.uk). For a similar **Paris tray**, try Famille Summerbelle (famillesummerbelle.com) and find Orla Kiely **storage jars** at Bliss Home (blisshome.co.uk).



Bathroom

B&Q's Cooke & Lewis Duchess **bath**, £419 (diy.com), is a good match. The **wallpaper** reflected in the mirror is Tema e Variazioni by Fornasetti for Cole & Son - try eBay.



Fireplace

Dwell sells a **monkey candlestick**, for £29.95 (dwell.co.uk). For a similar **G Plan-style coffee table**, try secondhand stores or Ardingly Antiques Fair (iacf.co.uk/ardingly), or splash out on Vitra Noguchi's coffee table, £1,222, from Aram (aram.co.uk) ●

