

French interior designer Marianne Tiegen restored the elegance of this Paris apartment in the historic Place des Vosges. A natural palette is created in the living room with linen curtains from Lizzo and a sofa, cushions and rug by Caravane. The Willy Rizzo cabinet is from a Paris antiques market, while the twin lamps and coffee table were found at flea markets. A white 'Barcelona' chair by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and 'Arco' floor lamp by Flos contrast with the artworks, bought in Africa. The glass-topped Max Sauze table is from an antiques market in Lille. Details, last pages.

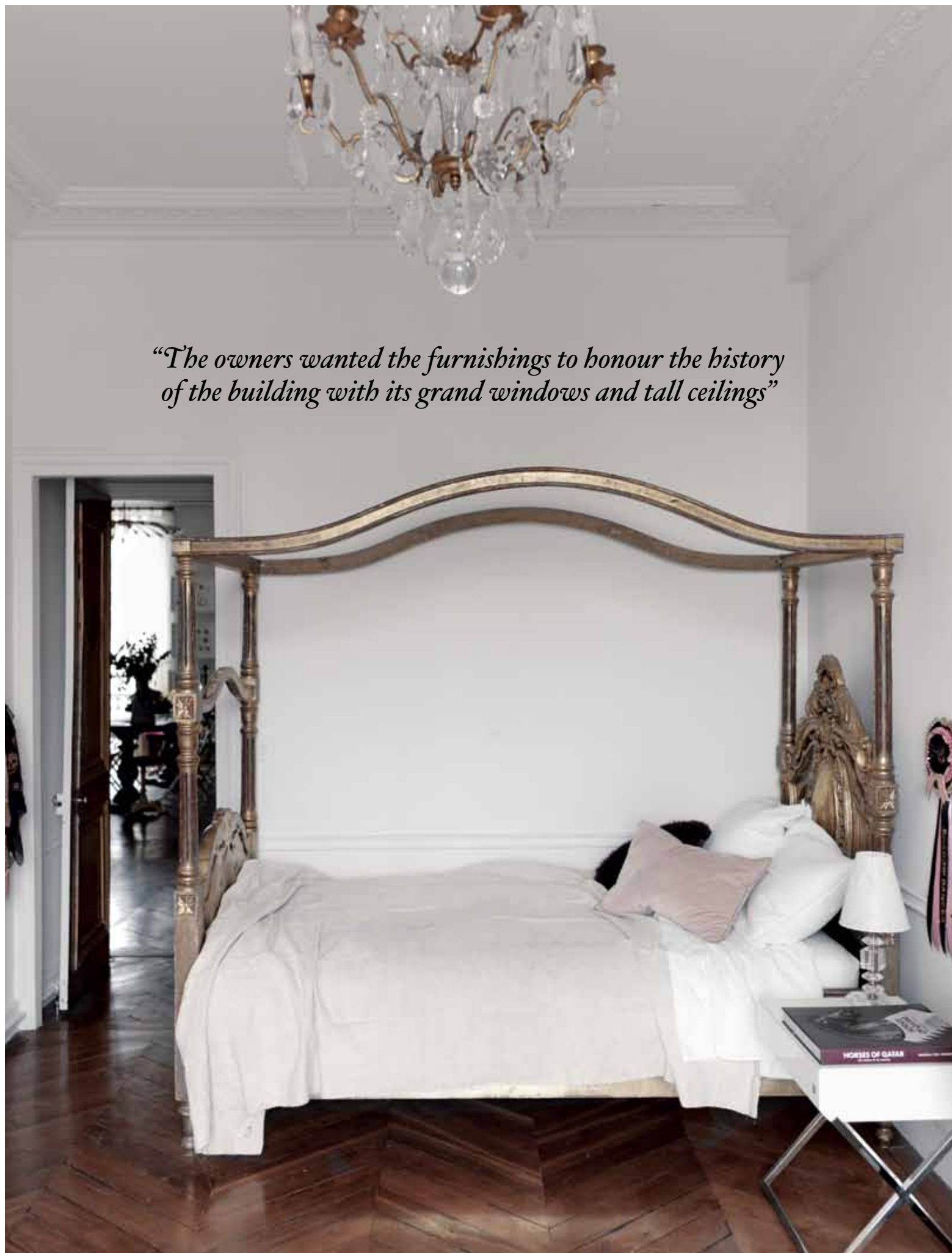
A sense of place

An original apartment in Paris's oldest square is elegantly restored to honour its very special location.

PHOTOGRAPHER: JEREMY WILSON PRODUCER/WRITER: LISA POCKLINGTON

Working within the restrictions imposed by the home's heritage value, interior designer Tiegan used paint to highlight architectural details. The leather sofa is from Knoll, and the cabinet, lamp and artwork are family heirlooms. **OPPOSITE:** the kitchen can be glimpsed through the entranceway, which houses an antique table from Antwerp, and 'MR' chairs by Mies van der Rohe. The Murano glass chandelier is by Paulo Venini. Tiegan treated the Colefax and Fowler damask curtains to make them look aged.





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A daughter's bedroom is sophisticated in pink. Satin curtains by Pierre Frey set the tone for the room; local artisans were put to work making the bespoke dressing table and re-covering the chair, which came from a flea market. Other vintage finds include the painted wardrobe, the chandelier and the Louis Philippe gilt four-poster bed, *OPPOSITE*, upon which rests a bespoke mattress handmade by Literie Bonnet, and bed linens and pink velvet cushion by Caravane. The 'Tulip' lamp is by MyYour.



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Antiques markets were the source of many of the elegant pieces in the bathroom, *OPPOSITE*, and the main bedroom, *THIS PAGE*, including the chandeliers, marble-topped table, Spanish Rococo-style chair (reupholstered in vintage French linen) and 19th-century mirror. The bathroom curtains are from Lizzo, and the bed linens are from the Selena range at Caravane. The leather 'Swan' armchair by Arne Jacobsen for Fritz Hansen - from another era altogether - sits perfectly in the setting.



"The units in the kitchen (*THESE PAGES*) were originally used as storage for all the household laundry when the building was in its heyday," says Tiegen. "It made perfect sense to keep them in use for displaying crockery and glassware." The overhead light fitting is a piece the owners have owned and treasured for many years, and brass fittings by Jieldé provide spot lighting over the shelves. The rustic timber table and chairs are vintage finds.



Iron and bluestone form incredibly sturdy shelves in the home office, *THIS PAGE* – they once housed state documents in the National Archives of the Netherlands. *OPPOSITE*: the house fronts on Paris's Place des Vosges, completed in 1612, were all built to the same design. The square retains its remarkable uniformity of style today. Details, last pages.



NESTLED IN THE heart of bustling Paris is a little piece of tranquillity. Place des Vosges, the French capital's oldest planned square, built between 1605 and 1612, belies its city centre location and offers its illustrious residents a secluded and calm neighbourhood.

The British owners of this spacious second-floor apartment enlisted the talents of French interior designer Marianne Tiegen to restore the tired interior and bring an authentic air of elegance back into their Parisian base. "They wanted the furnishings to honour the history of the building with its grand windows and tall ceilings but to be perfectly usable for a busy, modern, young family," Tiegen explains.

The designer went to great lengths to honour their wishes – to wit, her approach to the curtains in the entranceway: "Vintage fabrics are very fragile and don't always stand up to the wear and tear of modern living. I used current fabrics and had them treated to look aged and genuinely faded."

Working within the tight heritage restrictions in place to protect the Place des Vosges, which was built during the reign of Henry IV, Tiegen kept the internal layout as it was and enhanced the elaborate architectural features through clever use of paint. She highlighted the beautiful window surrounds and ceiling mouldings in white to help them stand out.

To create additional storage in areas such as corridors and bathrooms, Tiegen sought out antique doors from flea markets to front purpose-built units, then painted them in the same colours as the walls and mouldings. The result: storage spaces that look as though they've always been an integral part of the apartment. "You'd never know they weren't an original feature," she says.

Tiegen's lifelong passions are French antiques and rare design classics and she used her extensive network of antique dealers across northern Europe to source the perfect furniture for this project, seamlessly blending interesting pieces from various eras to create a modern interpretation of classic elegance. "I love to mix pieces from different periods to create a particular look. In the office, for example, I've placed an industrial stone and iron shelving unit from the National Archives in the Netherlands alongside a sleek steel desk by Knoll, an Eames chair and a Napoleon III-era sofa. Combined with bold, modern artwork and deep blue velvet curtains, this gives the room a very masculine feel."

The owners came across Tiegen's distinctive style when she was a buyer for Petersham Nurseries in London several years ago. They were enchanted by her combinations of worn antiques, faded grandeur and tone-on-tone texture; of weathered paint patinas and natural linens married with age-softened leather and smooth glass. "They wanted me to recreate the same aesthetic here at Places des Vosges: grand but modern, sophisticated but earthy and simple," she says. "It was a dream for me to work in such a mythical location. I fell under the spell of the history of the Place and how, despite being deep in the heart of a busy city centre, it maintains the peacefulness and slower pace of a bygone era. Being here transcends time. Looking around, inside the apartment and at the view from the window, you could be in any century of Paris's history. It's pure escapism."

When the project came to a close, Tiegen left a note for the owners saying she felt as though they had produced an interior space that was as "elegant, timeless and peaceful as the Place des Vosges itself". **VL**