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PETITE PARADISE

Breaking all rules, this compact living unit in the French capital vividly reimagines the concept of a city forest by embracing dense blacks and vibrant jades

TEXT BY DANIELE GERKENS PHOTOGRAPHY BY NICOLAS MATHEUS



In the Le Marais district of Paris with its narrow streets and low ceilinged buildings sits this 325 sq ft apartment, whose new owner entrusted the renovation of the premises to London based interior designer Hubert Zandberg. His main objective: To create a comfortable and elegant pied-a-terre for short stays. "I began by knocking down the dividing walls which fractioned into four tiny rooms. Then I reconceived the area from scratch," explains the designer. He decided to create a large kitchen, bed cum living room and pleasant bathroom. The choice of decor though remained undecided. Unlike most people who would have used white as a unifying element throughout to increase the perception of space, Hubert opted for a patchwork of patterns. "We brought in uniformity by using a grey and black base throughout. The feel is certainly unusual, but the decor can change completely depending on the palette of complementary colours used," he explains. As it happens, he selected green and introduced variations of it into the decor with perennial plants, cushions, curtains and wall art. "This hue is evocative of nature, but does not require daily maintenance as vegetation would." With the addition of an industrial touch that is "so typical of the spirit of the neighbourhood", this mini space transformed into a maxi decor project. ♦

Above The all black kitchen has fired earth tiling and woven raffia by Madwa covered cabinets
Left In the living cum bedroom, geometric patterns coexist - Geo wallpaper by Ella Doran complements the Quadrant curtains by Lisa Miller for Christopher Farr. Other curios include a floor lamp and bowl by Herve Van Der Straeten and linen by Blanc d'Ivoire

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In the bathroom, a black stone sink was installed on an old metal stand to contrast perfectly with the green Dandelion tiles by Claesson Koivisto Rune from Marrakech Design. To create intriguing focal points, Hubert designed a pair of dangling lights as well as the two closets on either side of the sink



A charming Malakos Malachite emerald curtain by Robert Allen alongside botanical illustrations from a second hand store, stand out against the stark black wall in the passageway outside the bedroom. Right The cosy four poster bed by Hubert is fitted with a printed canopy made with New Manor Park fabric from Blendworth. The unusual knick-knacks were found at the Clignancourt flea market Les Puces in Paris

