

MEET THE DESIGNER

LOUIS HENRI

THE LATEST PROJECT OF LONDON-BASED INTERIORS FIRM LOUIS HENRI IS A BREATHTAKING APARTMENT LOCATED IN ONE OF PARIS' MOST DESIRABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS. COMPLETED IN MAY 2012 AND LOCATED ON THE FASHIONABLE AVENUE MONTAIGNE, THIS GENEROUSLY PROPORTIONED LATERAL APARTMENT HAS BEEN EXTENSIVELY REMODELED TO EXACTING STANDARDS.

THIS NEWLY COMPLETED PARIS APARTMENT BY LOUIS HENRI HAS EVERYTHING FROM FURNITURE TO RUGS, CHANDELIERS TO DOOR HANDLES ALL CUSTOM MADE, TO THE HIGHEST UNCOMPROMISING STANDARDS OF 'GRAND LUXE'.

WE TALK TO THE DESIGNER ABOUT THIS NEW PROJECT AND WERE HIS LOVE FOR INTERIORS COMES FROM.

WHAT WAS THE BRIEF/ FUNCTION/DESIRE ETC. BEHIND YOUR RECENT PROJECT IN PARIS?

The brief was simple, to create a retreat that was fresh, something that the clients hadn't seen before, that was finished to the highest standard possible. Other than this, I was given free rein to present a suitable design for the apartment.



DESIGNER
LOUIS HENRI

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
RICHARD WAITE

WHAT DID YOU FIND MOST CHALLENGING AND REWARDING WITH THE FINAL DESIGN?

The language barrier was a challenge. I can understand French now but it was a different story when I started. It's a slow process and I'm still learning.

Assembling pieces on-site was sometimes a challenge. Various components arrived from different specialists, often from different countries; we had to hope everything fitted together. Only one or two pieces out of a hundred needed adjusting so it was a success in the end.

The most rewarding part of the project was when two articulated lorries blocked the whole of Avenue Montaigne and Avenue Champs Elysees. A crew of 10-15 hoisted every one of the carefully designed, prototyped, individual elements into the apartment with my brother, who came up from Johannesburg to help put the apartment together as a unified statement.

After 4 years spent on 3500sqft of the finest part of Paris, seeing the finished project was rewarding!





*"We asked for an apartment in Paris, and
you've given us a palace in Paris."
-the client*



LOUIS HENRI
AVENUE MONTAIGNE, PARIS



WHAT WAS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND YOUR CAREER IN INTERIORS?

I come from a family of engineers and landscape designers so problem solving and design have always been part of my life. I started studying Product Design at the University of Johannesburg but changed to Interior Architecture after six months. It just seemed to be a better fit. Interior Design is Product Design on a larger scale. The idea that you can influence someone's mood just by putting them in the right environment is very exciting. There's nothing

better than seeing the result of up to four years of hard work (and a little bit of imagination).

WHO DO YOU ADMIRE WHEN IT COMES TO DESIGN?

I admire so many people. I think we are all influenced by our predecessors, it's like the metaphor on the £2 coin which reads "standing on the shoulders of giants". I admire The Egyptians, The Romans, The Ancient Greeks but also modern designers like Andre Arbus and Alberto Pinto.

WHERE DO YOU FIND INSPIRATION?

I am inspired by everything. Nature is a very important design aesthetic for me, life is stranger than fiction and the same goes for nature, the ever changing patterns of dried seaweed patterns, coral, etc., are so inspiring. I also find the South African sensibility inspiring. I'm still inspired by much of the Edwardian architecture in Johannesburg, especially the work of English architect Sir Herbert Baker.

WHAT WAS THE BEST ADVICE YOU RECEIVED WHEN IT CAME TO INTERIOR DESIGN?

To stay true to the original concept, when choosing something for an interior ask yourself 'does this add or subtract from what your trying to achieve', if you're unsure then leave it.

The other being if you love it, buy it.

For further information on Louis Henri visit www.louishenri.com



