



Patio Luscious green plants stand out against the furniture's earthy palette. The owner repainted and lowered the Piero Lissoni table in the foreground. The large black pebble-shaped seat is from Caravane, and the pair of black 'Toy' armchairs are by Philippe Starck for Driade ►
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A woman with short dark hair, wearing a dark long-sleeved top and dark trousers, is walking on a concrete path towards a modern house entrance. The path is flanked by dense greenery, including bamboo and various shrubs. The house has large glass windows and a dark frame. The overall scene is a lush, green garden setting.

SPACE TO GROW

Featuring a restful grey palette, a playful mix of contemporary furniture and a hidden courtyard garden, this spacious converted factory on the outskirts of Paris is a truly magical family home

Words/Production **MARTINA HUNGLINGER** *Photography* **MADS MOGENSEN**





Kitchen Wooden bowls by ENO add texture to the simple Bulthaup kitchen block. Just behind the unit hangs a large black 'Pulp' suspension light by Dutch designer Jo Meesters

Living area A three-arm rotating ceiling light by Serge Mouille hangs over a 'Visir' ottoman from Caravane. The basket, made from knitted recycled paper, is by French company Best Before

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The unprepossessing industrial façade of this former steel factory was nearly enough to make Laurence Simoncini turn on her heel and abandon the viewing, but any reservations she had about the building were dispelled the moment she saw the extraordinary internal garden filled with ancient, leafy trees and a forest of bamboo. The Parisian boutique owner was enchanted by the place, and enlisted architect Valerie Mazerat – who designed Paris concept store Merci – to help her make it habitable. 'We didn't have the whole factory originally,' she explains, 'but the day before we started the renovation they put the adjoining building up for sale.' So they snapped that up, too, and doubled their floorplan. This was a coup for Laurence, who grew up in a one-bedroom flat and views space as a real luxury. 'I couldn't even hang a poster on the wall when I was a child,' she says. Now, barely 15 minutes' drive from the centre of Paris, she is the proud owner of this sprawling property – spanning 600 square metres in total – which has been transformed into a stunningly contemporary family home.

This 'loft home', as Laurence calls it, is a perfect combination of intimacy and spaciousness. 'It's a large house but I can hear my husband on the phone in his office, the children laughing in their rooms and the kettle boiling in the kitchen. We are in touch with one another and that's what creates the ambience of a home.' Indeed, the minimalist architecture of the building has been offset with an array of natural textures and tactile materials. 'I'm always looking for pieces in wood, iron, felt, linen, wool and velour, because they add softness, as well as style, to an interior,' she says. A subtle palette of greys and browns imbues the building with warmth, as well as a palpable sense of calm. 'Grey brings such peace to a home,' explains Laurence. 'We have a very hectic work life, so I wanted to create a tranquil environment. Now, when I walk in through the door, I immediately feel relaxed.'

Unsurprisingly, given Laurence's own upbringing, much of the house has been dedicated to her children, Léa, 15, and Ugo, 11. They have the run of two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a study, a playroom and an extra dormitory area for sleepovers with friends. The spaces are furnished with items from Laurence's shop, Serendipity – a children's boutique in Paris. 'I try to find designs that are chic, playful and unique,' says Laurence. 'As soon as I see an object become too common, I take it out of our stock.' And this selective approach extends to each and every piece in her home. 'I am not a fan of clutter, therefore I know that I have to be thoughtful about the pieces I put into the house,' she says. 'The objects, furniture and art that I buy have to be enduring. They need to have substance and be timeless enough to stay in our home for many years to come.' ►

serendipity.fr



Living area The custom-made sofa and one-off carpet are both by Caravane, and create a cosy area where the family can relax. The round silver vase is by Atmosphère d'Ailleurs

Dining area The spherical pendant lights are by Bertjan Pot for Moooi. The chairs by Hay Copenhagen are made from recycled plastic bottles and felt, and surround a tabletop by DAO. The homeowner's architect designed the table legs ▶

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Living area A dark grey 'Mira' sofa by Caravane and a solid tiger wood side table by Jerome Abel Seguin define this space. The dining area to the left of the kitchen consists of plastic armchairs by Charles and Ray Eames for Vitra and a black 'Container' table by Marcel Wanders for Moooi ►
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'CHILDREN ARE NOT AFRAID OF DARKER COLOURS; THEY FIND THEM WARMING AS WELL AS PROTECTIVE, PROVIDING THEM WITH THE TRANQUILITY TO THINK AND SLEEP'





Child's bedroom The furniture is all from the homeowner's shop. The bunkbed is 'Amber In The Sky' from Perludi and the cushions are by Velvet Chic. The felt carpet is by Best Before and goatskin stool by Rock the Kasbah add soft textures

Hallway A green felt carpet by Muskhane, a Chevalier Masson 'Blowing' ball and a 'Plopp' stool by Oskar Zieta for Hay form an indoor play area ►

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Bathroom The 'Pear' tub is by Patricia Urquiola for Agape and the taps are by Boffi. The grey tiles and floor are softened with a cowskin (try Mode for similar)

Bedroom The 'SL05 Pardis' bed by Philipp Mainzer for e15, is made with Society Limonta linen. The soft black feather lamp is by Mat & Jewski, and the framed photo is by Erwin Olaf  **Stockist details on p253**

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