

A Loft

New York
2011 — Residential
Aurélien Gallet



Sexiness is a quality too little appreciated in design, and when it is invoked, it all too often refers to the kind of clichéd bachelor pad decor more appropriate for James Bond in 1963 than a 2014 savvy design aficionado. But Aurélien Gallet reinvigorates the concept in his work, managing to be both rigorous and playful, moody and just a little bit offbeat. He has a dark, almost Gothic sensibility, yet he is also witty. He delights in the unexpected mash-up – Louis XVI furnishings with neon artwork, iron and fur, deep colours set off by glints of gold and brass.

Perhaps because he makes his own metal furniture, this Normandy-born, New York-based designer has a love for repurposing industrial detritus as sculptural elements in his rooms. He adopts old tools, medical devices and equipment (some of which look as if they may have been involved in painful, even unsavoury procedures). He toys with decorating clichés, mixing fur throws and bearskin rugs with Basquiat drawings, over-scaled, rusting metal pieces with damasks and velvets. Trained as an art appraiser, he has an eye for brash, unexpected art. The diverse range of elements throughout his space entrance the eye and seduce the hand with their rich textures; Gallet's rooms always have a barely constrained sensuality pulsing behind their serene surface.

This idealized gentleman's lair is a perfect example. Lighter and more open than much of his work, it retains Gallet's characteristic mix of industrial elements, contemporary furnishings, seductive textures and unexpected juxtapositions. Even the traditional painting over the sofa is subverted. Yet the room is also appealing and even comfortable. Gallet remains consistent in his ability to surprise and, most importantly, seduce.

Michael Boodro

→ 1 Library; white tigerskin rug. → 2 Main living space; wide oak planks were used on the floor; custom-made wood panelling was designed for the walls by Aurélien Gallet. → 3 Detail of unique ebonized and parcel-gilt bronze bookcase with lion faces and lion paw feet, attributed to Maison Jansen, French, 1940s. → 4 Kitchen; absolute black-marble worktops; vintage lights are from Obsolete, Venice Beach.



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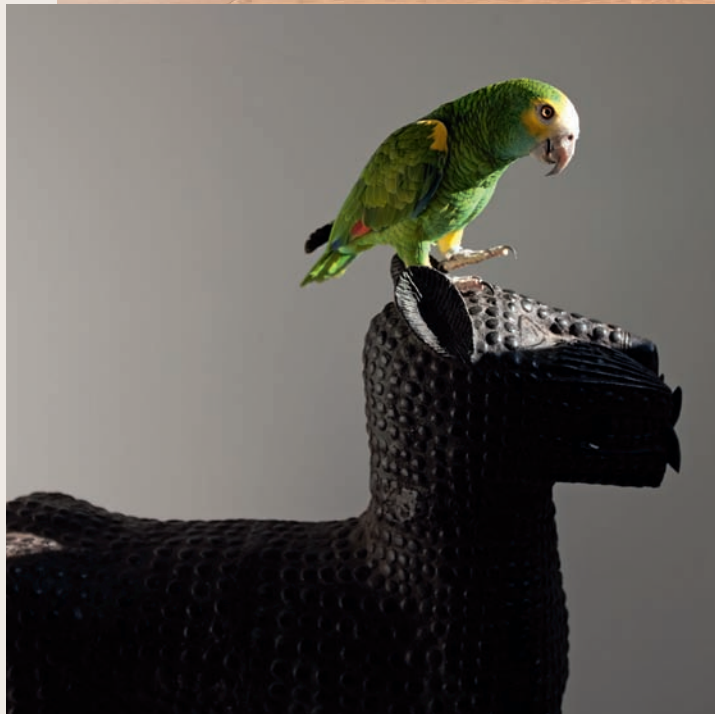
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→ 5 Library; white sofa, custom-made and designed by Aurélien Gallet. → 6 Exterior view from street. → 7 Office; printmaker's desk in antiqued pine from Restoration Hardware; patinated desk chair on castors with adjustable, pivoting back rest and ebonized mahogany seat, American, 1930s. → 8 Entrance hall; detail of artworks.



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→ 9 Main living space; the bottom section of a reclaimed early-twentieth-century, American mining cart serves as a coffee table; print by Richard Mosse. → 10 Detail of contemporary Tanzanian leopard statue. → 11 Office; limited-edition signed desk chair in wood and cork by Martin Szekely, 2000; Cape Table, steel, by Gregor Jenkin.



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