




# MODERN-DAY MAGNETISM

 After long upholding tradition, or seldom straying from the well-practiced belief that the past must be present, hosting the new is the ever-widening French mantra. As the twenty-first century continues to unfold, sumptuously accessorized rooms filled with weighty furniture and voluminous draperies (embellished with swags and jabots) often feel static, stuffy, and, rather bluntly, overdone. Halting the monotony of old-world décor are streamlined silhouettes, strategic use of color, and works of art that emit a relaxed yet refined *au courant* aesthetic.

Literally breathing fresh air into centuries-old Parisian *appartements* that brim with architectural reminders of the space's former life are marble, glass, stone, and metal surfaces in a range of finishes including bronze and burnished brass. Natural materials such as clay, leather, and bleached wood also lend dimension and deliver warmth to dwellings, where appreciation for handmade tiles, handwoven baskets, and coveted linens spotlight the captivating way the French live today.

Electrifying modern and contemporary canvases help make settings in gentrified areas one's own—as bursts of saturated shades work well against the preferred backdrop of neutral walls. Since one doesn't often see strong color on walls, it stands to follow that a graphic canvas with bold strokes and riotous color can transform even the most staid space into a room that reverberates with life.



**PREVIOUS OVERLEAF:** White linen curtains frame entry doors that open to the street, while white plaster walls flow freely from room to room, melding the home's interiors with the homeowners' art changing the palette. The artwork of internationally acclaimed Peter Keil makes a strong visual statement in addition to serving as a conversation starter. A Créations Métaphores velvet ombré—fabric with gradations light to dark—covers a bench produced by Matizza's Upholstery, Houston, that rests on newly quarried Belgium blue limestone laid in a rhythmic pattern.

**RIGHT:** Streamlined steel doors heighten the view while adding a midcentury edge to open-plan living, with distinct areas for gathering and dining. Plump, velvet pillows rest on a sofa with classic lines, while chaise and chairs project a modern look. All textiles are dog-friendly Perennials Fabrics, including the eggplant pillows. The statement piece—a mirrored coffee table—hosts well-read books.











**ABOVE:** Hand-painting on the reverse side of glass—known as *églomisé*, with reflective properties (in this case gold, silver, and copper leaf) and origins dating back to medieval times—by Timothy Poe, Birmingham, AL, resides above a high-backed banquette upholstered in Harlequin fabric. Faux-fur pillows enhance the comfort, with sculpted accent tables delivering a contemporary twist.

**RIGHT:** Natural light floods a sumptuous living area with two distinct but harmonious seating groups. The versatile chaise functions as a room divider, while the Perennials area rug not only grounds the room but also promises no worries about spills or stains. Sliding barn doors (left) separate the dining and family living spaces from the kitchen.















**ABOVE:** Glazed wood on treads pairs well with slurried-brick risers, linking the first and second floors. Design of wrought-iron stair rail complements the steel windows and fresh look of the home.

**RIGHT:** Custom chests flank the master headboard upholstered in Jerry Pair leather. Eggplant felt from Kravet covers the master chaise, while a geometric area rug from Matt Camron Rugs & Tapestries warms the floor.









