

Milk DECORATION

Alan Eckstein
LE DESIGN À LA COOL

FORMAFANTASMA : LES DESIGNERS-CHERCHEURS
OUTDOOR : LES NOUVEAUX CODES DE L'EXTÉRIEUR
LES AÇORES : ARCHIPEL SAUVAGE

Avec : Faye Toogood — François Champsaur — Elena Reygadas
Takesada Matsutani — Nani Marquina — Aldric Beckmann

In the living room: "Nomad" sofas, "Jonathan" sideboard, "Orma" coffee table, "Noa" ceiling light and "Raku-Yaki" wall lights and cabinet-bar, all by Emmanuelle Simon. Painting, Hermentaire.



Photo : Damien de Medeiros

EMMANUELLE SIMON

Henceforth sharing her time between Paris and Madrid, the interior designer has made this appartement her pied-à-terre in the French capital, a place where she can experiment and display creations in her trademark style.

TEXT: LAURINE ABRIEU — PHOTOS: DAMIEN DE MEDEIROS — PORTRAIT: NOEL MANALILI



Photo : Noel Manalili

Formerly a workshop making garments in fur located in a building dating back to 1900, these premises had neither a kitchen nor a bathroom. In fact, they had never been lived in. And yet, despite the resin flooring and sloping ceilings, interior designer Emmanuelle Simon recognised the property's potential. She fell in love with the space, its tall windows, continuous balcony, carved wooden guardrails, south-facing position and the idea that she would have to start from scratch. She began by considering the layout, organising the rooms to create a notion of flow that was previously inexistant. The immersive, enveloping and deliberately dark and narrow corridor draws you towards the light and into the large living area with its 3 metre-high ceilings. *"Contrast really amplifies the sensations you get here"*, says Simon. The same corridor leads into the bedrooms and two bathrooms hidden behind invisible doors.

Working closely with numerous talented artisans, Emmanuelle explored the many possibilities of different materials. Take the walls – no two rooms have the same finish! In the hall and main bedroom, master decorators Mériquet-Carrère applied lime plaster to the walls. *"We took our time selecting the colour and explored different patina on site to take into account the ambient light. We opted for different shades of off-white, while paying careful attention to texture. When you come closer and see the almost cloudlike traces of its application, you can really appreciate the level of craftsmanship required. The energy is completely different to paint."* For the deeper shades like in the corridor, Simon worked with Propose, a company that creates different types of plaster in bespoke colours made from natural pigments. Products come in a varied

range of more or less grainy, sandy and rough-textured finishes. *"I wanted to create a subtle difference in sensation from one room to the next,"* she adds. Wood gets pride of place on the floors with an aged and deliberately irregular oak parquet flooring from Belgian company Arbony. Not wanting to be outdone, stone features on the hall floor with a floral mosaic by Delphine Messmer and in the master bathroom, where a painting-like effect is created by surrounding the stone floor with a 'frame' made of polished concrete mixed with pieces of travertine. And there's one more material to mention – raku – which is a regular feature in Simon's work. It turns up here as a splashback in the kitchen. *"What I love about raku is its randomness. It is precisely those things that you cannot control that make it so beautiful."* She goes on to tell us that the interior was a chance to experiment. Today, it also provides a venue where Simon can showcase new versions of her existing designs, such as the oblong XXL model of her "Tiga" dining table, as well as new pieces like the "Orma" headboard in the master bedroom. All display the rounded forms that are her trademark. *"With a curve, you avoid the feeling of a limit that can come with an angle. The ceiling seems higher, the room envelops you and there is an impression of infinity, softness and sensuality. Materials are not applied in the same way on a curved surface. For my new creations, I wanted to get away from geometric shapes and work in a more random manner, to say goodbye to mathematical geometry and explore a feeling for shape."* Emmanuelle Simon now shares her time between Madrid and Paris, where she continues to design furniture for her collections while working on residential projects in Mallorca, Ibiza and Paris and a concept for a store. ●

In the hall: "Cone X" lamp by Emmanuelle Simon and mosaic floor by Delphine Messmer.

"Tiga" XXL
dining table by
Emmanuelle Simon
and chairs by
Charlotte Perriand
(Galerie Desprez
Breheret). Stone
kitchen island and
work surface. Raku
splashback and wall
creation by Romain
Guillon in ribbed
unfired clay. Ceiling
light, Olivier Premoli.



Photo : Damien de Medeiros



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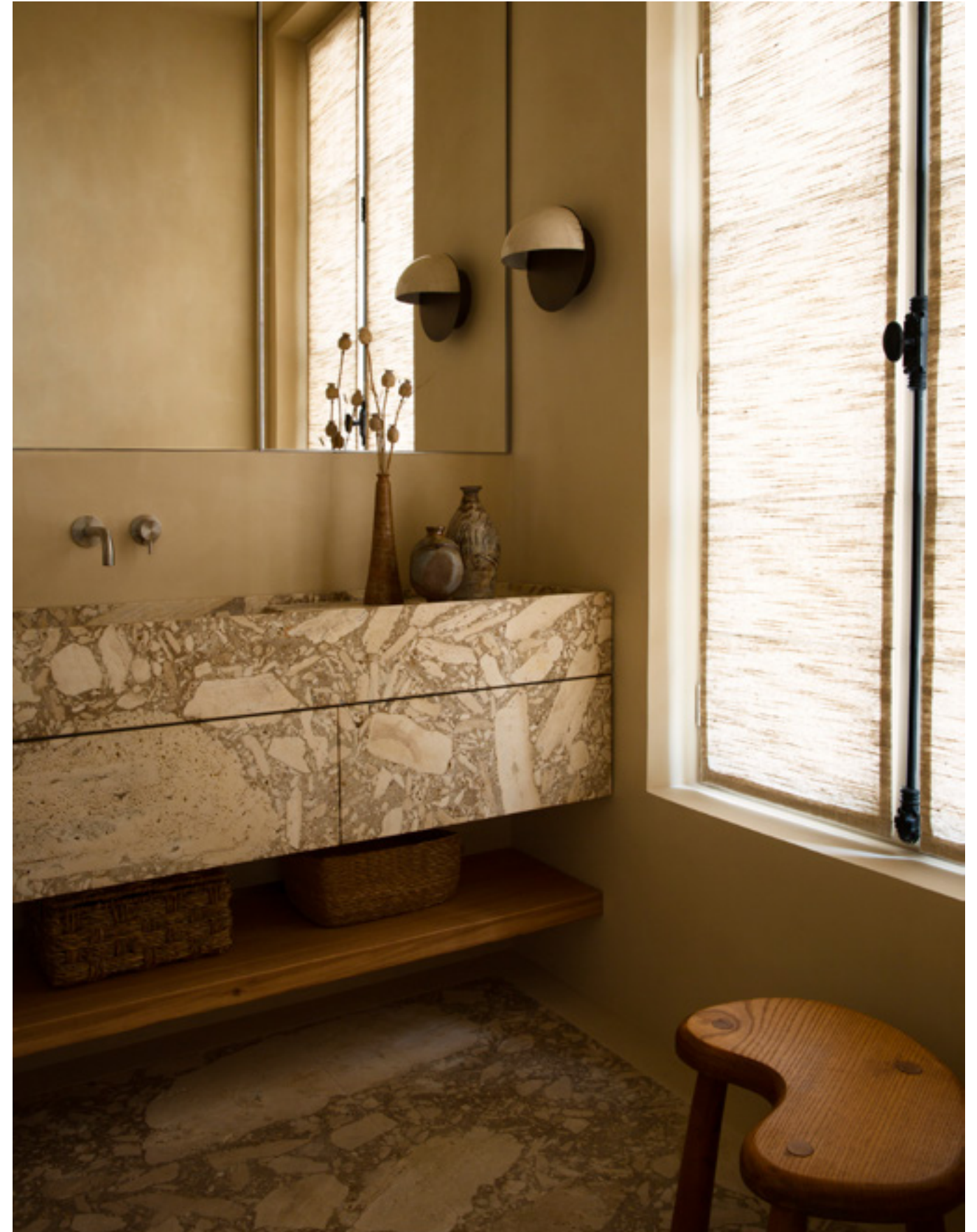


Photo : Damien de Medeiros

In the bathroom: travertine bathroom sink and polished concrete walls. "Raku- Yari" wall light, Emmanuelle Simon. Left-hand page: "Baba" chair and round cushion by Emmanuelle Simon. Painting, Hermentaire. Ceiling light, Isamu Noguchi. African fabric from London-based gallery Adire African Textiles.



Photo : Damien de Medeiros



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"Nomad" bench and "Oyo" wall lights by Emmanuelle Simon. Artwork, Thomas Gleb (Galerie Desprez Breheret).
Left-hand page: In the master bedroom, "Orma" headboard and "Ary" bedside table by Emmanuelle Simon. Chair, Tony Bain. Lamp, Guzzini.
The bed throw is an African fabric from London-based gallery Adire African Textiles.