

housebeautiful

JUNE 2002

The Best Ideas for Your Home

20+ pages of Summer Party Tips

Window Workshop 101

Fantastic Curtains, Blinds, Shades



\$3.50

06

08458



0 754734 4

In the shadow of the Eiffel Tower and just beyond the Louvre, Paris indulges its colonial passions

Très Exotique

LIKE ALL DECORATORS WORTH THEIR salt, my partner, Hermes Mallea, and I have done Paris more than a few times, so we structured a recent visit around a theme. French colonies once proliferated in Africa, South America, Oceania, and Asia, and Parisians have always had a love affair with *les choses exotiques*. We decided to organize our trip based on Paris's past and present as a center of cultural diversity.

Our first stop was the splendid Musée National des Arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie, which occupies a 1931 Art Deco icon built as the centerpiece of the Colonial Exposition (pavilions included a recreation of Angkor Wat and an African kraal). The grand *salons* by Jacques-Emile Ruhlmann and Eugène Printz and lacquer panels by Jean Dunand are marvelous, and the space itself is exotic to the core: marble floors are patterned in tribal motifs, door hinges are palm fronds, and door handles are tusks.

Heading east (figuratively), we checked out the incredible trove of Asian art at "le Guimet." >

Photographer Hermes Mallea **Writer** Carey Maloney



[above] Mallea and Maloney, on the hunt for things Asian and African in Paris. [right] Charles Cordier's Africa, at the Musée d'Orsay.



[above left] Flea market corte postale. [above right] Chinese cabinet found in the passage du Grand Cerf. [right] Philippine chaise at Au Fond de la Cour.



Recently reopened after extensive renovation, the Musée National des Arts Asiatiques–Guimet had long languished in dreary old digs. Architect Henri Gaudin retrofitted the interiors, creating a spectacular light-suffused space in which each work of art is shown to perfection.

A short walk took us to an old favorite, the Musée Nissim de Camondo, a fantastic decorative arts museum full of FFF (fine French furniture), as well as Jean-Antoine Houdon's bust of an African woman (an inscription celebrates the French abolition of slavery in 1794) and Aubusson chinoiserie tapestries. Continuing our orientation, we braved the queue at the Musée d'Orsay to see the exuberant Charles Cordier busts representing the continents, then took in Paul Gauguin's Tahitian paintings. The little-known Musée Dapper was next for its sumptuous cache of sub-Saharan art.

With Hermes, one can't just walk or taxi in a straight line, so we zigged and zagged to see the façade at 2 place du Caire and the Egyptian portico in the Hôtel de Beauharnais (now the German embassy) on the rue de Lille. Careening around the Place de la Concorde, we raced past the ancient obelisk and stopped in briefly at l'Église du Saint-Esprit, a 1928 exposed concrete church inspired by Istanbul's Hagia Sophia.

On the Left Bank, our shopping radar had us rambling along the *rues* Bonaparte, Seine, and Beaune. Jean-Jacques Dutko won our best-dressed award for showing Dupré-Lafon's furniture with African masks, while Philippe Murat David impressed us with a wacky card table and chairs made in 1936 for the French administrator of the Ivory Coast. Sylvain Lévy-Alban's papier-mâché rhinoceros jardinières once graced Dior's windows in the 1950s—*très* chic. (Into rhinos? You can also see Louis XV's personal rhino—stuffed, of course—in the Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle.) As we suspected, Ariane Dandois's gallery and warehouse of extraordinary Asian pieces didn't disappoint; the Napoleon III caned furniture at Au Fond de la Cour, with Massier porcelain parrots and flamingoes perched here and there, evoked images of l'Indochine.

As for contemporary fare, Hermes and I are addicted to the Chinese pottery at Le Compagnie Française de l'Orient et de la Chine, and we always fall prey to Simrane's Indian cotton prints. Across the Seine, in the passage du Grand Cerf—the 1825 precursor to your local mall—we admired As'Art's African furniture



[clockwise from top right] Indian fabrics at Simrane. Exotic edifice at the Place du Caire. Chinese ceramics at Le Compagnie Française de l'Orient et de la Chine. Dupré-Lafon end table and African mask at Galerie Jean-Jacques Dutko.



[above] Chinoiserie tapestry at the Musée Nissim de Camondo. [above right] African headrests at As'Art. [right] Outside La Pagode movie theater. [below] Ivory Coast game table.



and objects and PM & Co. Style's modern Chinese/French mix.

On *le week-end*, we hit the flea markets and continued our exotic travel theme, buying vintage 1960s Gucci luggage (pre-double-G) at Voyages in the Marché Serpette and books, maps, and postcards in the Marché Dauphine. We're film buffs, so we took a load off one afternoon and caught a matinee at La Pagode movie theater, a Japanese folly built in 1895 in the garden of the founder of Bon Marché. Our hands-down best find was Le Salon de Thé de Mademoiselle Li in the Bois du Boulogne. Artist Hippolyte Romain transformed the second floor of a park service building into an enchanting Chinese teahouse. Later we went for Chinese cuisine and the smart scene at Tong Yen. While trendy Buddha Bar's music is an opiate to me (Hermes cringes), we opted to buy the new CDs and skip the restaurant. Besides, who needs trendy in Paris when you can go global at every corner?

✿ Colonial Power

The country code for France is 33; the city code for Paris is 1.

- *As'Art*, 3 passage du Grand Cerf, 2nd Arrondissement; 44-88-90-40
- *Au Fond de la Cour*, 49 rue de Seine, 6th Arrondissement; 43-25-81-89
- *Le Compagnie Française de l'Orient et de la Chine*, 167 boulevard St. Germain, 6th Arrondissement; 45-48-10-31
- *Galerie Ariane Dandois*, 92 place Beauvau, rue du Faubourg St. Honoré, 8th Arrondissement; 43-12-39-39 (warehouse open by appointment)
- *Philippe Murat David*, 3 rue de Beaune, 7th Arrondissement; 42-61-64-53
- *Galerie Jean-Jacques Dutko*, 13 rue Bonaparte, 6th Arrondissement; 43-26-96-13
- *Sylvain Lévy-Alban*, 14 rue de Beaune, 7th Arrondissement; 42-61-25-42
- *Musée Dapper*, 35 rue Paul-Valéry, 16th Arrondissement; 45-00-01-50
- *Musée National des Arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie*, 293 avenue Daumesnil, 12th Arrondissement; 44-74-84-80
- *Musée National des Arts Asiatiques-Guimet*, 6 place d'Iena, 16th Arrondissement; 56-52-53-00
- *Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle*, 57 rue Cuvier, 5th Arrondissement; 40-79-30-00
- *Musée Nissim de Camondo*, 63 rue de Monceau, 8th Arrondissement; 53-89-06-50
- *Musée d'Orsay*, 62 rue de Lille, 7th Arrondissement; 40-49-48-14
- *La Pagode*, 57 rue de Babylone, 7th Arrondissement; 45-55-48-48
- *PM & Co. Style*, 5 passage du Grand Cerf, 2nd Arrondissement; 55-80-71-06
- *Le Salon de Thé de Mademoiselle Li*, Jardin d'Acclimatation, Bois du Boulogne; 40-67-90-82
- *Simrane*, 23-25 rue Bonaparte, 6th Arrondissement; 43-54-90-73
- *Tong Yen*, 1 bis rue Jean Mermoz, 8th Arrondissement; 42-25-04-23

Open Invitation

Open up your home to the legendary Cuisinart Food Processor and turn meals into fabulous occasions.

Make a sumptuous family breakfast of sliced fresh fruits and sweet pastries.

Lunch, dinner or get-togethers?

Impress all with an array of hors d'oeuvres, homemade breads, elegant entrees and delicious desserts.

The next generation of Food Processors by Cuisinart.

Now, savor the good life™ with family and friends.

Cuisinart

SAVOR THE GOOD LIFE™

www.cuisinart.com

Bloomingdale's • Chef's Catalog
Macy's • Williams-Sonoma

