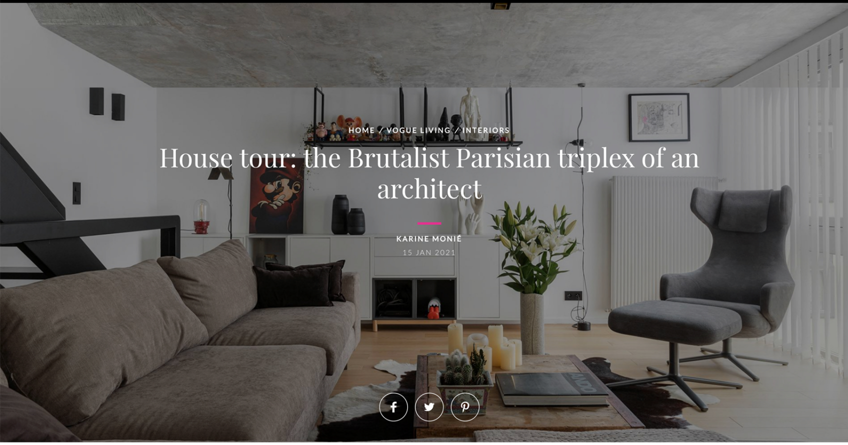

House tour: the Brutalist Parisian triplex of an architect

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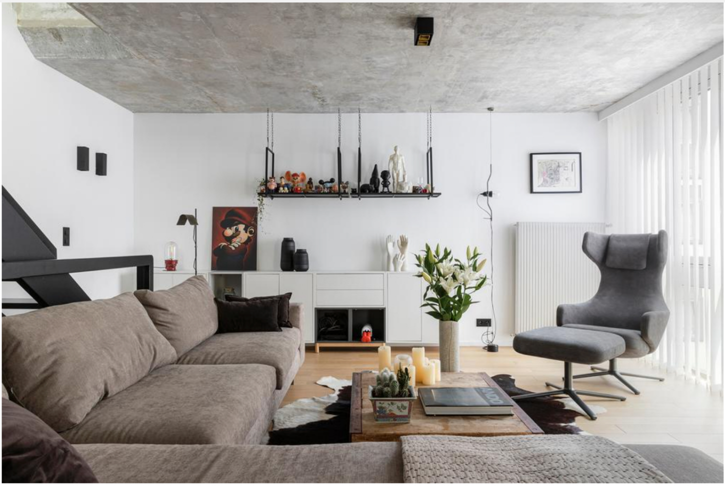
In the French capital, this apartment organised in three levels is filled with character, thanks to the raw concrete walls and ceilings, the surprising mix of furniture and lighting, and a charming rooftop terrace. Photographed by Sebastian Erras.



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For the past few years, the 20th arrondissement of Paris has been increasingly en vogue. The eclectic, young and dynamic atmosphere of this neighbourhood — described in French as *bobo*, which means bourgeois and bohemian at the same time — convinced 47-year-old, French-Lebanese architect to purchase his current flat that he shares with his boyfriend.

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Nestled in a typical building from the 1980s with little external appeal, the space reveals its real potential inside. The atypical, row distribution of the areas and the 20-square-metre terrace — which is "small yet divine" according to the interior architect — are the showstoppers. "I am an outdoor person and I had been looking for an apartment with a terrace for a very long time," the interior architect confesses. "It's not very easy to find this type of space in Paris where most old buildings don't have a roof terrace. Since I've become a fan of gardening, I can spend whole days taking care of my plants."

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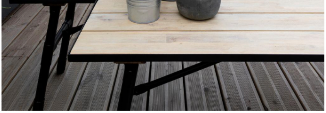
Spread over 75 square metres, the three-storey apartment has an entrance that leads directly to the living room, which is filled with natural light thanks to floor-to-ceiling windows. The lower floor comprises two bedrooms (the master and a guest bedroom) with a bathroom and an independent toilet, while the upper level consists of a veranda — which hosts the open kitchen and dining room — and the small terrace surrounded by greenery.



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As with all his projects, the interior architect particularly enjoyed the conception process. “During this phase, I am obsessed with the project. I can’t sleep, I am asking myself thousands of things; it’s exhausting!” he describes. “I am doing the project in my head until finding the right combination.”

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The architect had the advantage of freedom while designing his own home. The challenge for the architect, however, was to give life to a real home that would not look like a showroom but instead be his refuge where he feels good and can host friends — something he particularly likes.

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“I had been very lucky because when we started the renovation, I discovered the raw concrete ceilings and walls that were in a very good state,” the architect says. “This material gives a lot of character and personality to the space. It adds a Brutalist and contemporary touch.”

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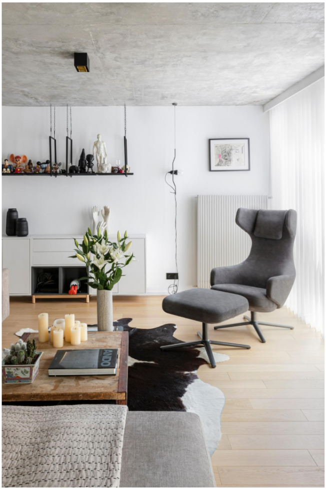
To create a sense of balance throughout, the architect chose a raw, light oak flooring while the rest of the design and decorative elements are mostly white, grey and beige, with a few black details through the accessories, lighting fixtures and staircase.



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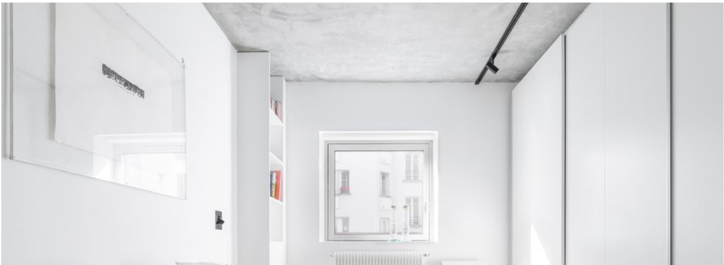
“I love mixing different styles,” the architect says. In the living room a Pianca sofa with an L-shape combines with reclaimed pallets that are now used as coffee tables, a Vitra armchair and ottoman, an Ikea piece, the Parentesi pendant lamp by Achille Castiglioni and several figurines, among other features. In the dining room, furnished with Eames chairs and Costanzina lighting, the solid wood table was designed by the architect while in the entrance, an old carpenter’s workbench from the beginning of the 20th century serves as a desk.



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“It’s a cosy, functional, pleasant to live in, joyful and unpretentious apartment,” the architect says. He is, however, already thinking about what’s next. “I’ve never stayed more than three years in the same home,” he notes. “It’s so exciting to discover a new environment and neighbourhood, to have new habits. I am a nomad who gets bored easily!”

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