

hospitalitydesign

perspectives

places: paris

elements of their lobbies.

Le Dauphin, a new restaurant designed by Rem Koolhaas in the emerging 11th arrondissement, presents an opulent but still simple vision in white marble and warm woods, paired with a dazzling use of mirrors.

Independent Style

The city's array of small hotels de charme is abundant, but tired. Enter a dozen or so renovations and reflaggings. Christian Lacroix's renovation of the 26-room Hotel Notre Dame is a good example. The fashion designer has poured on adornment—from tapestries to mock frescos—to create six



Left: The grand lobby of the Shangri-La Paris. Above: The neutral, yet textural lobby of 7 Eiffel.

shrouded Peninsula building. With their bright abstract paintings, striped draperies, classic furnishings, and parquet floors, the apartment-style guestrooms and public spaces have been pulled together with a sure hand by Veronique Valeke, a fourth-generation member of the family that founded the hotel group to which this property belongs.

The 34-room Hotel La Belle Juliette, housed in a similar building on a St. Germain des Pres street filled with antique stores, takes the idea of the Majestic's Parisian apartment and melds it with the wild romanticism of Lacroix. Interior designer Anne Gelbard, another Lacroix alum, has crafted a refined decor that weaves its tale around Juliette Recamier, a renowned 19th-century literary salon hostess. The public spaces are an ingenious mix of old and new, populated by a mix of whimsical items like mid-century modern and antique chairs reupholstered in fuchsia and deep purple, and treasures like first editions, old magazines, and bric-a-brac.

different guest environments, including "divine garden" and "angels."

Anne Bruguere Peyroux and Emmanuele Tuchband Thisy of Peyroux & Thisy, who met while working on the Le Bellechasse renovation with Lacroix in 2006, say they are dedicated to "working in three dimensions." At the tiny 7 Eiffel, 32 rooms feature ceiling murals, carpets patterned like Belgian block, and walls outfitted in shimmering tiles and terry cloth-like fabrics. Rooms and public spaces are shot through with bright pink accents. "For today's travelers, hotels are an opportunity to experience decors and ambiances different than what they have at home," says Peyroux.

The opposite tack is apparent at the recently opened, 27-room Villa Hotel Majestic, which sits directly across the street from the

"Each floor marks a strong element from Juliette's life, either key people—like Madame de Stael, her best friend and mentor—or snapshots from her life, like Italy, her refuge," explains Gelbard. "My approach for this hotel was to make a place, a reassuring house, not a 'concept.' Juliette was an excellent host, so I wanted to make the hotel a warm cocoon for voyagers discovering Paris."

The newest entry from Elegancia Hotels, Seven, is also a discovery for guests. Twenty-eight rooms done by Philippe Vaurs are based on the idea of levitation, while seven other themed suites are the handiwork of four other designers, ranging from Vincent Bastie's 007 suite to Sylvia Corrette's Black Diamond suite. This summer, the brand will open Le Crayon, designed as a colorful artist's haven.