

MIAMI

# luxe.

interiors + design





At the LA Apartment Cultural Series in Wynwood, contemporary European furnishings, including designer Sebastian Herkner's Dulce tables for La-Divina and informal Scandinavian stools, pair perfectly with signature French designs such as Mies van der Rohe's iconic Ball chair, part of the permanent collection at New York's Museum of Modern Art.



# PASSPORT *to PARIS*

WYNWOOD'S L'APPARTEMENT CONCEPT STORE  
STANDS OUT AS A PORTAL TO PARISIAN DESIGN.

WRITTEN BY SARA PICKMAN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOFIA REVELL

Shop owner Emmanuelle Bernard (below) describes her style as "eclectic, warm and colorful," which shows through in her store in such items as Samsø's yellow lounge sofa, patterned Hay pillows and a Peony wall sticker from PaperMint. Other items include Paris' Kusin Tea (see right) and a glass display stand by Corning B for light.



Step inside L'Appartement Concept Store in Wynwood and immediately you'll be transported from the sweltering streets of Miami into a cool-girl Parisian apartment oozing with style. In fact, the store, owned by French interior designer Emmanuelle Bernard, is curated and arranged in such a way that visitors move from one room to the next—much like touring a chic flat in Bernard's native Paris—with each space showcasing furniture, home decor and art, all with a certain *je ne sais quoi*.

After moving to Miami from the Alps with her husband and daughter in 2015, Bernard was struck by how much the city was in the process of growth and development, and how the creative industries were providing some of the major contributions to this movement. But she realized the region lacked in one major area. "In terms of furniture, the new European wave was pretty limited," she says. And so, L'Appartement was born. An amalgamation of cutting-edge home decor pieces and old-world classics, the store features furniture, lighting and decorative objects all from European designers, many of which have never been available before in the United States—much less South Florida.

But L'Appartement is more than just a home store. Bernard transforms the walls into gallery space, displaying contemporary works by such new and local artists as German photographer Christian Richter and Miami-based painter Richard Tjebkowsk; she's currently assembling a series of limited-edition posters from Denmark's Paper Collective to showcase over the summer.



The room's sophisticated layout provides plenty of places to sit or stand. Here, an X-Ray sofa by Axel Sten and a Portuguese coffee table by José Duchassaing's partner and a Tappan rug by Patricia G. Proulx of her LaDessine. A "view of Paris" (by Paul van der Laan) on the wall opposite from Robert Rauschenberg.

Another setting included in  
Chen's book ends, which  
include by Peter Friebe and  
Hertz's Jane rug designed by  
Ruthie Glass. Several other  
paintings and photographs  
are also on display.





*"IT TOOK ME  
YEARS TO CREATE  
MY PERSONAL  
ENVIRONMENT—  
A UNION OF  
DIFFERENT PERIODS  
AND STYLES."*

along with a series of her own limited-edition posters. Bernard has been a practicing artist for more than 20 years, stemming from her background in set design, which helped her foray into interior design, painting and photography. "Home and set design are similar in that you have to imagine that you're the client or the character in order to create the perfect setting," she says. "In either case, it's always about telling a story."

As for her private home, Bernard has created her own stylish story by mixing iconic pieces from the likes of Le Corbusier, Charles and Ray Eames and Charlotte Perriand with items from more contemporary designers including Alain Gilles and Constance Guisset. "It took me years to create my personal

L'Appartement's creative energy fits in well with its surrounding neighborhood, where a piece by local artist Watersmark (left) is found on a wall outside the store. Inside, a Mediterranean lamp by Noël Duchesneau (Laurence for Petite Friture sits on an Hverfud stool by Peter-Thomas [Dobos for Hentl James])



environment—a union of different periods and styles," she says. "But this is what makes it feel so lively and strong, and it's the way I give it character to make it my own."

Bernard's style comes through in each room in the store, complete with an entryway, living room, dining room and a child's room. She explains that the typical Parisian apartment is a mix of retro, chic and avant-garde pieces. Where in Miami, by contrast, very white, sleek interiors reign supreme. So, Bernard encourages her customers to combine this cool Miami aesthetic with the warmer colors and materials inspired by European design to achieve a more inviting atmosphere—an eclectic mix that makes L'Appartement so decidedly fresh and French. ■