

Issue 02

Fashion Meets Interiors

Right through an open door

BARCELONA Featuring Chanel

Photos: Coke Bartrina Set design and Styling: David de Quevedo Words: Victoria Salazar

NICOLAS VANDERBECK'S LOVE FOR ART DÉCO STARTED TWENTY YEARS AGO, AND LED HIM TO MOVE HIS GALLERY FROM BRUSSELS TO THE SOUTH OF FRANCE AND FINALLY TO BARCELONA. HE SAYS THAT WHAT ATTRACTED HIM TO ART DÉCO WAS ITS TIMELESSNESS. OVER THE PAST TWENTY YEARS HE HAS COLLECTED UNIQUE PIECES FROM VIENNA, PRAGUE, BRUSSELS, THE NORTH OF FRANCE AND BARCELONA, WHERE HE FINALLY DECIDED TO SET UP A GALLERY, ELEVEN YEARS AGO. TWO YEARS LATER THE FORMER GALLERY WAS ENLARGED TO HOLD MANY MORE EXCLUSIVE PIECES OF FURNITURE. THE ELEGANCE OF THIS GALLERY IS ALSO THE ESSENCE OF NICOLAS' HOME, A WARM PLACE THAT BRINGS US BACK TO THE FIRST HALF OF THE XX CENTURY. HE SPEAKS ABOUT THE FINE WOODS USED TO MAKE THOSE PIECES OF FURNITURE, SUCH AS ROSEWOODS, AND AFRICAN OAKS; TODAY THEY ARE NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN. AT THAT TIME HOWEVER, EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THEIR COLONIES AND EXPLOITED THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES, SO THERE ARE STILL WONDERFUL PIECES THAT WILL REMAIN FOR AGES, BECAUSE OF THEIR EXTREMELY HIGH QUALITY.









This page: This charming living room emanates Italian and French 50's essence . The ensemble of the purple velvet armchairs and sofa is surrounded on the left side by a 50's shelf filled with books and decorative objects, and on the right side by a 50's floor lamp from Arlès, France. Below them there is a magnificent Italian handmade rug from the 30's.













This house speaks about tradition and a mix of styles dating from the 1920's to the 1950's but all of them connected in one way or another to Art Déco. It also speaks about the love for collecting, not only furniture, but also art in general. Nicolas owns a collection of ceramic jars and one hundred and twenty polar bears collected around the Czech Republic, Hungary, Belgium and France. He also collects paintings and sculptures, all of them integrated into the harmonious mix of carefully picked pieces of furniture. This decor matches perfectly well with Chanel handbags and perfumes and it is precisely because the Chanel spirit talks the same language. In the 20's Coco Chanel designed a shoulder bag to free up women's hands. Although this handbag was designed in the 20's, it was in 1955 that this handbag came into the fashion industry in a new version, which was called 2.55. The exquisiteness of Chanel design extended beyond fashion and accessories, leading to the creation of Chanel n° 5 fragrance, in 1921. The bottle's angular design condensed the essence of Art Déco and became a timeless icon.















