

Galerie



Maison Gerard Transforms a Brooklyn Townhouse with Mid-Century Furniture from France

Design dealer Benoist Drut animates the multi-level home with choice pieces by
Guillerme et Chambron

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Leave it to Benoist Drut of Maison Gerard to know that French mid-century furniture was exactly what a Brooklyn townhouse needed to come alive. The expert design dealer collaborated with real estate developers the Brooklyn Home Company to transform a newly built Carroll Gardens multi-level home into a dazzling showcase for works by the French design duo Guillerme et Chambron, whose company *Votre Maison* produced unique wooden pieces out of a former gun factory after World War II.



Charis and table by Guillaume et Chambron complement the wood fireplace mantle.

PHOTO: MATTHEW WILLIAMS



A dining table, chairs, and overhead light showcase the details and imagination of Guillaume et Chambron.

PHOTO: MATTHEW WILLIAMS

Originally designed for families to live with in a comfortable and easy way, the pieces were part of the collections of two different French apartments. “To show it in one house allows us the ability to convey the feeling of what it could have been at the time even if we took liberty,” explains Drut of the collection he’s assembled. “It’s not fragile, but it’s still very refined.”

The unique and surprising elements of the cabinets and tables include secret drawers, whimsically painted tiles, and transforming parts that capture the imagination. But Drut, who started collecting Guillaume et Chambron about five years ago, wasn’t always such a fan. “At first, I didn’t understand their work, it was not interesting to me, but more recently discovering the nest of tables made me change my mind. I like the way the smaller fits into it bigger one and how you can carry them all together. Then, I discovered the dining table that you open from the top, and it sunk in how inventive they were.”



Benoist Drut included pieces by other Maison Gerard artists as well.
PHOTO: MATTHEW WILLIAMS



A cabinet by Guillaume et Chambron contains secret compartments.
PHOTO: MATTHEW WILLIAMS

This property, which features four bedrooms and six-and-a-half bathrooms, gets much of its character from wood details such as custom fireplaces, banisters, and a statement pillar on the main floor, which coincidentally resembles some of the inspiring Votre Maison exhibition pieces. Bill Caleo, founder of the Brooklyn Home Company says, “The majority of the unique woodwork created in all of the homes by the Brooklyn Home Company is by our artist-in-residence and sculptor Fitzhugh Karol. We have incorporated his special touch in all of our projects since 2007.”



The primary bedroom in the Brooklyn townhouse.

PHOTO: MATTHEW WILLIAMS

The pieces create a harmonious and warm feel on every level of the Brooklyn house, and the connection with the appreciation of wood as an artisanal craft really connects. Drut describes the furniture as “Playful, comfortable, and easy to live with. It’s chic without being ostentatious.” But he may as well be speaking for the entire Brooklyn house as well.

The house is open to visit by appointment through January 21.



Table and chairs along with sconces and a side table by Guillaume et Chambron.

PHOTO: MATTHEW WILLIAMS