# **France** Hotels

# 'You can't go wrong with pink and green'

Luke Edward Hall's retina-pulling palette transforms a tired Paris hotel, says Rooksana Hossenally

espite heavy rain, the streets are a hive of activity. Trucks deliver racks of raw meat, stacks of pink cakes and basmati rice, small clouds of starchy powder escaping as the sacks are piled up inside shops that sell coconut oil, curry powders and other Indian wares. I am in Little India, a pocket of Paris that saw an influx of South Indian and Sri Lankan Tamils move here in the 1980s following the outbreak of civil war.

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I turn on to a quieter street scattered with Indian sweet shops. Suddenly, the buildings give way to rows of train tracks. Facing them stands a six-storey corner building that went by utterly unnoticed until very recently.

Formerly, it was the run-down Hotel Kuntz, which I remember had stained burgundy carpets, curtains imbued with cigarette smoke and mahogany furniture that lost its veneer a decade ago when the Kuntz family sold up.

However, neither the state of the building, the incongruous neighbourhood, nor the global pandemic marred one hotelier's vision. Adrien Gloaguen, who already has three Parisian hotels under his Touriste brand, has opened a fourth: Les Deux Gares, meaning "The Two Stations" in French, is named for its location between Gare de l'Est and Gare du Nord (it is also the street name).

He brought on British designer Luke Edward Hall for the interiors. Trained as a menswear designer at Central St Martins, the 31-year old has collabohis own line of ceramics (including for hotels, such as Le Sirenuse in Positano).

Stepping over the threshold is like meets-Gallic version of Wes Andercould call it an audacious 1960s/70s palette of electric green, mustard yellow and dusky pink.

"I was given the green light to really go for it in terms of colour and patbe so free on a residential job," says Hall.

"Luke loves everything typically Parisian – he loves the Café de Flore vision of what a Parisian hotel should look like," says Gloaguen.



his moodboard", says Gloaguen. And while Paris has seen a boutique hotel boom in recent years, the hotelier has reinvented the game through this design-forward property. "I like to work with designers who have never done hotels before. Their fresh focus, I find, brings something extra," he adds.

Hall first came up with a story for the new hotel. "I wanted it to feel like the home of an eccentric Parisian bohemian who has amassed furniture and rated with Burberry and Liberty, has a art from his travels, from various perilong list of residential projects and has ods and countries," says the designer. The result is a mix of decorative objects, from flea market finds to French Empire-style furniture custom walking on to the set of a British- made in Portugal. For the walls, Hall painted portraits of literary figures son's The Grand Budapest Hotel. One and activists from Oscar Wilde to Angela Davis. He also sourced a lot of take on art deco, with a retina-pulling old Parisian exhibition, travel and club posters online.

The lobby, wrapped in green walls and with a tiled black-and-white take on herringbone floorboards, flows into tern. I don't think one always gets to a breakfast nook where guests enjoy croissants and coffee. Streetside, there's a homely corner with a leopard print sofa and brass coffee table, sourced by Hall from Brownrigg (one and Jean Cocteau. The result is his of his favourite dealers in the UK) and strewn with curated objects, that stand against a backdrop of toile de Jouy But the result is "even better than wallpaper and candy stripe curtains.



< Is the floor of the basement gym, far left, paying homage to the Hotel Kuntz's 'chequered past'?

< Luke Edward Hall sitting pretty in the eccentric new addition to the Touriste hotel group

For the 40 guestrooms, Hall came up with three bold colourways. "You can't really go wrong with pink and green," Hall says of his favourite. The rooms are cosy with views of adjacent

Hausmannian buildings. The 1920s-inspired bathrooms -Hall's favourite bit of the hotel - were ordered from the UK-based Bold Bathroom Company, which re-edits pastel hued vintage sinks and bathtubs.

The basement gym was designed with Hall's grandmother in mind. Think lilac and lime green flowerprint wallpaper splashed across every surface, with a red-and-white chequerboard floor. There's also a sauna and shower for a quick refresh before catching the Eurostar post-check out. Across the street is the Café Les Deux Gares, where Jonathan Sch-

weizer rustles up a menu of French staples with seasonal produce that changes daily: perhaps soft-cooked



🔺 Adrien Gloaguen gave his British designer the green light to 'go for it' on colour choice

loin with beetroot. The three-course

formule du midi at €23 (£21) is a steal. The restaurant was formerly a bar with faded train seats and other SNCF paraphernalia. And while Hall totally transformed this spot, it looks like it's always been here. Much, as I imagine, the colourful Hotel Les Deux Gares might do one day.

salmon and courgette or tender pork

 $Double\,rooms\,from\,{\it \in}120, including$ breakfast. 2 rue des Deux Gares, Paris 75010. (0033185731183; hoteldeuxgares.com). Overseas holidays are currently subject to restrictions. See Page 3.



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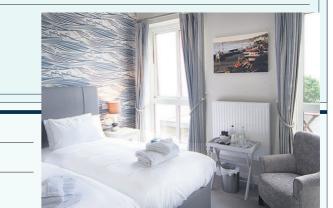
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The rooms are stylish and

comfy, and the restaurant

Yolanda Carslaw, Telegraph

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sits on a quiet country road

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hotel retains its Victorian

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vintage art prints. Most of

the rooms are in a newer

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Ben Lerwill, Telegraph Travel writer, says: "This modernised Victorian coaching inn is easy to reach on the edge of the Chilterns between London and Oxford. They take their food seriously here, offering an extensive menu?

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