

France Hotels

HOT
HOTEL

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

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

Despite 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.

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 collaborated with Burberry and Liberty, has a long list of residential projects and has his own line of ceramics (including for hotels, such as Le Sirenuse in Positano).

Stepping over the threshold is like walking on to the set of a British-meets-Gallic version of Wes Anderson's *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. One could call it an audacious 1960s/70s take on art deco, with a retina-pulling 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 pattern. I don't think one always gets to be so free on a residential job," says Hall.

"Luke loves everything typically Parisian – he loves the Café de Flore and Jean Cocteau. The result is his vision of what a Parisian hotel should look like," says Gloaguen.

But the result is "even better than



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 art from his travels, from various periods and countries," says the designer. The result is a mix of decorative objects, from flea market finds to French Empire-style furniture custom made in Portugal. For the walls, Hall painted portraits of literary figures and activists from Oscar Wilde to Angela Davis. He also sourced a lot of 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 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 of his favourite dealers in the UK) and strewn with curated objects, that stand against a backdrop of toile de Jouy wallpaper and candy stripe curtains.



BENOIT LIMEIRO

◀ 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 Haussmannian 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 flower-print 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 Schweizer 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

salmon and courgette or tender pork 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.

Double rooms from €120, including breakfast. 2 rue des Deux Gares, Paris 75010. (0033 1 85 73 11 83; hoteldeuxgares.com). Overseas holidays are currently subject to restrictions. See Page 3.



THE WINCHESTER ROYAL HOTEL

WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE

FROM £115 PER PERSON FOR A TWO-NIGHT STAY

DEAL
OF THE
WEEK

- ◆ Two-night stay with an upgrade to a Garden View Room
- ◆ Breakfast buffet daily
- ◆ Three-course dinner on one evening
- ◆ Afternoon tea
- ◆ Saturday supplement and blackout dates (Valentine's Day and Easter weekend) apply

SAVE
45%

Set in the heart of the charming cathedral city, the Winchester Royal Hotel offers elegant accommodation in 81



tastefully designed bedrooms. The 16th-century property retains original features alongside stylish contemporary touches. The award-winning restaurant overlooks a lovely walled garden, and serves delicious dishes made with locally sourced ingredients. The perfect cosy getaway for winter or spring, in a city steeped in history.

Kathryn Liston, Telegraph Travel writer, says: "A pretty walled garden and warm hospitality only a short stroll from the shops and Gothic cathedral."

Book by Mar 31. Valid for stays from Mar 1 until Jun 30, 2021. Quote TELP0001; call 0330 173 7047; see terms; telegraph.co.uk/tt-winchester-royal

THE CUMBERLAND HOTEL

BOURNEMOUTH, DORSET

FROM £117 PER PERSON FOR A TWO-NIGHT STAY

- ◆ Two-night stay
- ◆ Full English breakfast
- ◆ Dinner in the Mirabelle Restaurant on your first night (£29.95pp allocation)
- ◆ Coffee and cake on arrival

SAVE
27%

Head to the Dorset coast for a relaxing stay at a great British hotel. Set on Bournemouth's East Cliff, the four-star Cumberland Hotel overlooks a long stretch of beach with fantastic views across the English Channel. The stylish rooms have comfortable beds and art deco touches. The Ventana Grand Café offers delicious cocktails made with local spirits, and tasty meals are served in the chic Mirabelle Restaurant.

Benjamin Parker, Telegraph Travel writer, says: "Exquisitely polished surfaces, dashes of neon and an art deco edge ensure this cliff-top hotel stands out. There is a strong nudge towards the 1920s decade of decadence."

Book by Mar 31. Valid for stays from Apr 1 until Dec 21, 2021. Quote TELP0001; call 0330 162 4097; see terms; telegraph.co.uk/tt-cumberland-hotel

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THE WHITE LODGE HOTEL

FILEY, YORKSHIRE

FROM £139 PER PERSON FOR A TWO-NIGHT STAY

- ◆ Two-night stay in a Crescent or Sea View room
- ◆ Full English breakfast
- ◆ Cream tea on arrival
- ◆ Dinner on the first evening (£25 per person credit, excluding alcohol)
- ◆ Valid Sunday to Wednesday

SAVE
20%

This Victorian villa sits between two cliff-top gardens minutes from Filey's glorious beach. There are plenty of attractions nearby, and two long-distance hiking trails on the doorstep.



The rooms are stylish and comfy, and the restaurant serves excellent food.

Yolanda Carslaw, Telegraph travel writer, says: "New owners have breathed new life into this elegant hotel. It's fresh, modern and

light-filled, with wonderful sea views."

Book by Mar 31. Valid for stays until May 31, 2021. Quote TELP0901; call 0330 162 7357; see terms; telegraph.co.uk/tt-the-white-lodge

MERCURE THAME LAMBERT HOTEL

WATLINGTON, OXFORDSHIRE

FROM £105 PER PERSON FOR A TWO-NIGHT STAY

- ◆ Two-night stay in a Courtyard Room (double or twin)
- ◆ Continental breakfast
- ◆ First-night dinner in the Kite Restaurant (£25 allocation per person)

SAVE UP TO
20%

This former coaching inn sits on a quiet country road near Oxford. Much of the hotel retains its Victorian character, with beamed ceilings, fireplaces and vintage art prints. Most of the rooms are in a newer building with plenty of space and modern facilities. In the Kite Restaurant and Bar, choose from excellent British dishes and a long wine list.



Ben Lerrwill, 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."

Book by Mar 31. Valid for stays from Apr 1 until Dec 21, 2021. Quote TELP0901; call 0333 060 0916; see terms; telegraph.co.uk/tt-mercure-thame-lambert