





Le Cinq Codet

PARIS

A residential-style development in the “low-key” 7th arrondissement, Le Cinq Codet embodies understated style with its incomplete design and artwork in abundance.

Words: Molly Dolan | Photography: Courtesy of Le Cinq Codet

Surrounded by seven-storey Haussmannian Parisian apartments complete with wrought iron balconettes, Le Cinq Codet blends seamlessly into the urban landscape, so much so that it adopts its simplistic address its name.

Originally designed as a telephone exchange building in the 1930s, Jean-Philippe Nuel took on the challenge to transform the industrial space with verve, deploying his wealth of knowledge to create a truly unique project. The building retains many of its original characteristics to this day, with the glass block windows still in use on the central staircase.

Offering description, Nuel, founder of Agence Nuel, comments: “It has huge height on each floor, which we have used to develop the concept of two levels in most guestrooms.” Meanwhile a fourth floor was added, housing the hotel’s lavish suites and offering breathtaking views across Paris. The vast height of each level was very much a functional ploy when built, as technical telephone servers were held in the now plush, luxury spaces.

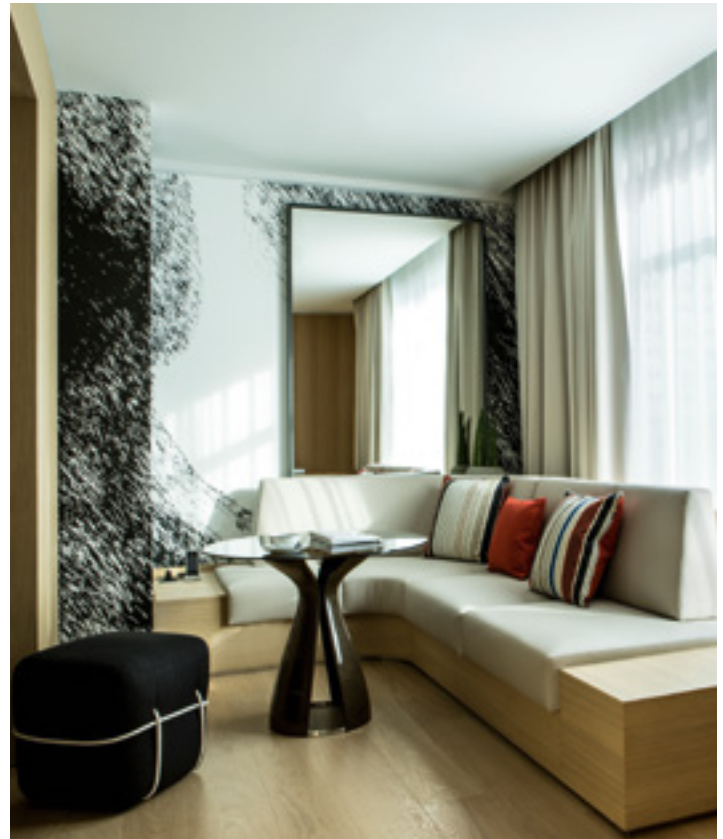


Previous Page: Designed to be a natural extension of the central patio, with the same atmosphere lingering, the lounge bar is an all-encompassing area **This Page:** In-keeping with local apartment styles, guestrooms span two levels **Opposite Page:** Guestrooms are furnished with round, corner sofas, Nuel-designed tables and furniture by Tom Dixon and Patricia Urquiola

Once an aristocratic district, the 7th arrondissement is often billed as the home of the Parisian upper class, after French nobles relocated to the less populated area in the 17th century from nearby Marais. L'Hôtel National des Invalides is located just a short stroll away, with the golden dome visible from guestrooms and suites, offering a glimpse of glamour over the rooftops.

Upon entering the building, a light and contemporary reception area greets visiting guests. An Elisabeth Garouste-designed armchair – one of only ten in the world – takes pride of place, adding to the exclusivity of Le Cinq Codet. Accompanying pieces designed by Nuel himself adorn the space, including the fascinating black, sleek concierge desk. Created solely for the hotel, many of the pieces will go on to create a small collection between Nuel and French brand Ligne Roset, while other furniture throughout the hotel has been designed by Paola Lenti, Patricia Urquiola and Tom Dixon.

Littered with books and artwork propped against walls, the design teeters on the edge of appearing incomplete, with the tranquil look adding to the relaxed, homely atmosphere. Artwork from reputable artists, as well as up-and-coming names such as Caroline Touzet and





Above: The hotel reception is littered with books and artwork propped against walls, adding to the relaxed atmosphere

Cyril Destrade-Léveillé, rests unhung, as it would be at home when deciding where to pierce a wall and hang it permanently. “No less than 400 artworks are on display,” explains Nuel, with the number of books totalling around the 100 mark. Titles such as Elliott Erwitt’s ‘Paris’ span the wooden shelves, inviting guests to read and relax.

Nuel describes the public spaces as being relatively scarce in order to promote the feel of local apartments, with limited shared areas and importance placed upon private living. That being said, the open reception offers areas to relax and read, while the hotel’s restaurant provides a sociable alternative.

Importance is placed on the guestrooms which, again, are designed to be homely, unpretentious and welcoming. “This is domestic style language that has mutated. Things are taken a step further,” illustrates Nuel when talking about the refined simplicity of the guestrooms. Mimicking the local style, most guestrooms span two levels, creating a true duplex-apartment feel, possibly even capturing the spirit of a very orderly artist’s studio.

With 29 room types of a total 67 guestrooms, Nuel and team were granted a sense of freedom to create quirky spaces, where guests are invited to make the room their own. The agency welcomed the flexibility as it allowed them to deviate from the limiting cookie-

cutter approach. The design motive centres on relaxation, with a freestanding bathtub located in the upstairs bedroom area, separate from the more functional shower space, and offering an unobstructed view across the neighbouring rooftops.

Corner sofas extend to the base of the staircase, imploring guests to unwind and utilise any area for relaxation, as the steps with integrated lighting can be used as informal seating. Nuel demonstrates this when taking a seat to talk passionately about the structured design of this particular, unique guestroom. Another seat replaces the traditional luggage rack, which has been omitted to allow for a more homely feel. Round lines of the Nuel-created table, made using linen fabric resin stand and smoked glass top, respond to the lines of the architectural chandelier above.

Four stand-out suites with landscaped balconies feature bespoke loungers and private Jacuzzi’s offering view of the magnificent 300-year old Invalides Dome. Meanwhile on the other side, the expansive suites embrace the views of surrounding rooftops and gardens, with a glimpse of the Eiffel Tower in the not-so-far distance.

With natural light filtering through the floor-to-ceiling windows, the arrangement of each suite allows for multiple customisation possibilities, with sliding doors allowing areas to reunite or separate.



Above: The patio is central to the hotel, offering a sanctuary from the city

Each bedroom features a king size bed with panoramic views, a grand sofa and brass totem lighting with antique bronze finish. The en suite bathroom is strategically placed, enjoying views of the terrace and city beyond. Oak walls line the space, complemented by simplistic monochrome tiling, while the signature freestanding bathtub sits in front of the bay window.

Originality continues through the contemporary design of the hotel corridors. The split-level guestroom top floor imposes on the corridor space at ceiling level, with Nuel using this to create a spectacle by adding lighting to the unusual feature. Corbelling creates a singular geometry, reinforced by the graphics of Béatrice Grandjean and soft lighting. Although large parts of the corridor design come as a result of the guestroom architecture, Nuel was keen for the spaces to remain unique, “like no other hotel corridor I’ve seen before”.

Central to the hotel is the patio, with copious greenery offering guests a sanctuary from the City of Light. “The courtyard is a very important part of the project,” states Nuel. “At night it is magical

with the lighting.” A select number of guestrooms offer views onto the green space. Designed to be a natural extension of the patio, with the same atmosphere lingering, the lounge bar is an all-encompassing area. “The doors retract, making it one fluid space in the summer time,” illustrates Nuel. With the fireplace taking centre stage, it is only natural to incorporate more bookshelves into this focal point. The ambiance embodies that of a studio loft, with 1930s-inspired black and green sofas standing alongside pierced steel screens.

The entire home-from-home design comes to a head with the breakfast space. The re-invented concept sees breakfast served around a small island-table, with the chef acting as head of the household, cooking to order just a few steps away. Guest meals are then completed using ingredients dispersed around the kitchen.

The project was a relatively quick one for Nuel, taking two and half years in total. Unfortunately, this time saw the passing of Eric Chabeur, architect to the project, whose team at Cabinet Millet Chabeur fulfilled his vision.

EXPRESS CHECKOUT: 67 guestrooms | 1 restaurant | 1 bar | Spa | www.le5codet.com

Owner / Operator: CHG Codet | **Architecture:** Cabinet Millet Chabeur | **Interior Design:** Agence Nuel | **Lighting Design:** Distylight