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French Minimalism's Love Affair With 1950s Architecture Explored at Galerie Pascal Cuisinier

BY JANA PERKOVIC | OCTOBER 31, 2015



Antoine Philippon and Jacqueline Lecoq: Suspended Sideboard (1958), Bofinger. (Courtesy of Galerie Pascal Cuisinier)

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French minimalistic design and architecture have been married for years.

A new exhibition at Paris-based Galerie Pascal Cuisinier examines the motivation behind the close love affair and its influence.

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The gallery champions the first generation of French industrial designers – those with works produced between 1951 and 1961.

The new show, “Architectural & Minimalist,”

highlights about 30 select pieces, among them some of the most radical and minimalist designs of the era, across furniture, chair, and lamp design.

The products chosen highlight the influence of Bauhaus, Le Corbusier, Auguste Perret, and Mies Van der Rohe, and ideas of rationality and functionalism which influenced industrial design of the time.

The principle “less is more,” promoted by these architects and designers, was not a call for impoverishment, but for a painstaking research into purification of form.

(/artists/alain-richard-153518)Alain Richard (/artists/alain-richard-153518), for example, was known for redesigning the details on his designs dozens of times, sometimes over the course of several years. The discoveries made during this era influenced mass-produced design for

decades to come: from the 1960s to the current Ikea furniture.

A highlight of the exhibition is Suspended Sideboard (1958), designed by Antoine Philippon and Jacqueline Lecoq, one of the most minimalist designs of the 20th century and produced by the West German brand Bofinger.

Other exhibits of note include Lamp G60 by (/artists/227186-pierre-guariche)Pierre Guariche (/artists/227186-pierre-guariche) for Disderot (1959), an experiment in folded Plexiglas (then a new material), and one of the last designs by Guariche; Banquette AR bench by Janine Abraham and Dirk Jan Rol for Huchers Minvielle (1959/60); and Low Table 132 by André Monpoix for Meubles TV (1953), a very rare piece demonstrating an elegant early use of laminated wood.

Also being exhibited: chairs by (/artists/227186-pierre-guariche)Pierre Guariche (/artists/227186-pierre-guariche), as well as a sideboard and table by (/artists/alain-richard-153518)Alain Richard (/artists/alain-richard-153518), and the most radical lamp designs by J-A Motte, (/artists/227186-pierre-guariche)Pierre Guariche (/artists/227186-pierre-guariche) and Michel Buffet.

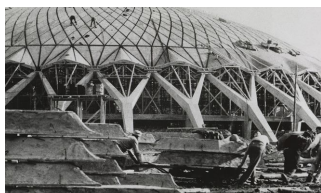
Architectural & Minimalist: French Design of the Fifties runs from October 29 through December 31, 2015 at Galerie Pascal Cuisinier, Paris.

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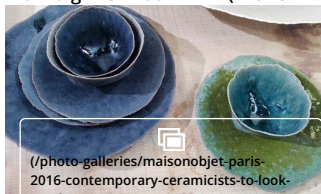
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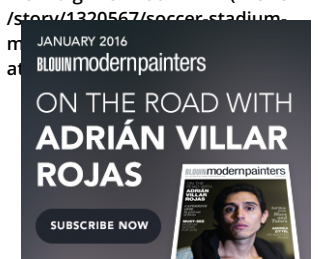


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