"I made this like a dream appartement for me."
—Vincent Darré

the legendary Jansen design studio. "My desk is Jansen," he proudly says of the vintage metal writing table standing center stage in the silver office. Here, past and present unite with a contemporary charge, marrying a new line of home furnishings and accessories—sparked by Baroque, Renaissance, and mythological grotesqueries. Darré's great aesthetic touchstones—with the expertise of artisans who are close friends. Vivid memories of a childhood trip to Rome come to life in the Forum's worth of architectural fragments that march across a long corridor's custom-made wallpaper. Lamps by Patrice Dangé and Kim Moltzer and a lava-stone console by Eric Schmitt are poised beneath the lounge's blood-orange ceiling. Terra-cotta sconces by Vadim Androusov and André Arbus illuminate the bath, and a shimmering Manuela Paul-Cavalleri mirror fashioned of burned and gilded wood joins an Osanna Visconti di Modrone table in the bedroom.

Darré is so pleased with the effervescent mise-en-scène that he'll be hosting everything from lunches to cocktail parties there, inviting painters, designers, actors, writers, and the like, in the manner of a mod Proustian salon. And if anybody wants the venerable china they just so handsomely dined upon, it can be had, for a price. maisondarre.com —MITCHELL OWENS
"It had been my grandfather's house," says the owner. "My goal was to give it a new lease on life, but not turn it into something that it wasn't."