It wasn’t until a 2009 work stint took Lisa and Brian Bogosian to Paris for several months that la Ville Lumière became the center of their aesthetic universe. “When we lived in Paris, we could go off to Capri or Ibiza so easily,” says Lisa, a former television ad producer. “Our apartment was in the eighth arrondissement, right near the Champs-Elysées. Surrounded by other Haussmannian architecture, it had exactly what we like—a mélange of old and new.”

When Brian Bogosian’s next job brought them to San Francisco (he is a technology executive), the couple promptly moved into temporary Beaux Arts digs with their daughters Ever and Lilly, who are now eight and five. After a long search, they found a three-story, five-bedroom home that once belonged to San Francisco’s noted Zellerbach family. Slightly larger than 8,000 square feet, the 1923 neoclassical Presidio Heights house was capacious enough, but it lacked a certain je ne sais quoi. It wasn’t French enough.

So the Bogosians invited architect Stephen Sutro and San Francisco interior designer John K. Anderson to help give the rooms a modern Parisian air. The remodeling took five years, and during that time the erstwhile Francophiles often retreated to Paris, where a fifth-floor pied-a-terre in their former neighborhood near Parc Monceau proved to be both rejuvenating and inspiring. John Anderson joined the Bogosians there for shopping excursions.

“My first trip with them in 2011 was the catalyst,” the designer says, “because it became a roadmap to what they liked.” Lisa Bogosian and Anderson visited Hervé van der Straeten’s workshop in the Marais, where they snapped up an extraordinary Moustaches No. 408 mirror and other key objects, while vintage pieces such as a fireplace mantel came from Paris flea markets. A Joseph Dirand-designed boutique for Chloé on rue Saint Honoré was yet another powerful inspiration. “The fashionable vibe in there was exactly what they were after,” Anderson says.

The results are seductive, chic and surprisingly cohesive, because the Bogosians, Sutro and Anderson collaborated on casework, room layouts and finishes from the start. Sutro and Anderson introduced fumed French white-oak floors laid in a herringbone pattern throughout, and they detailed new living spaces, bathrooms, a kitchen and a butler’s pantry for the public spaces on the first floor. The master suite and children’s rooms on the second floor, and a great room and offices on the third floor, are all backdrops for Parisian and custom designs as well as bold artwork.

Sutro created a new foyer with neutral pewter-colored walls and a sinuous curved staircase like the one at Chloé to connect the floors above and below the entry level. Bronze railings handcrafted for the staircase recall ironwork from the Paris Metro, and the vestibule has become a showcase for a polished stainless-steel console by Van der Straeten, fittingly called Passage 357. The eight-legged table is flanked by 1930s wood chairs from Coup D’Etat designed by Swedish architect Axel Einar Hjorth; a canvas by Robert Kingston hangs above it. A hair-on-hide rug by Kyle Bunting from DeSousa Hughes is complemented, perhaps in keeping with Anderson’s fashion theme, by a Matali Crasset pendant light called Diamonds Are a Girl’s Best Friend.
Although the wall colors throughout are muted, “we added ample color and texture in the rugs and furnishings,” Lisa Bogosian says. A Farrow & Ball paint as gray as a San Francisco fog was rolled onto the new living room walls, but a late-19th-century Bijar carpet with beautiful abrash striations inspired a warmer palette. The street-facing room is perhaps more colorful than any other in the house, with its colonnade of yellow hand-embroidered Holland & Sherry drapery, the Moustache mirror by Hervé van der Straeten and a luminous abstract canvas by Daniel Diaz-Tai. Vintage Gianni Vallino table lamps are paired with a Regency sofa covered in Rose Tarlow glazed linen and a banquette swathed in Old Weavers velvet, both from Coup d’Etat. A hard-edged Holly Hunt Mojave cocktail table and a faceted brass table from Scala Luxury complement Gio Ponti lounge chairs covered in soft white mohair. Sculptural 1950s sconces were found in Paris.

Two more mohair-covered Gio Ponti chairs appear in the walnut-paneled library, just off the living room, where a kinetic David Weeks chandelier, a coffee table by Sebastian Herkner from Arkitektura, and a gray-velvet Flexform sofa sit atop a Living Divani Arabian Geometric rug. All of these elements set off the startling sensuousness of a Kate Moss nude by photographer Albert Watson.

In the dining room, traditional paneling is covered in a custom wax-striated blue-gray paint with platinum-leaf detailing; the B&B Italia table and chairs are presided over by a stylized German-crystal chandelier by Windfall and a large enigmatic portrait by photographer Richard Learoyd. The theatrical experience is grounded by an Alexander McQueen silk-and-wool rug from Hewn.

By raising door heights and adding a floor-to-ceiling curved window, Sutro opened what had been a stuffy, oddly introverted formal living room to views of the bay. The new kitchen and family room are now the most-used spaces in the house. “I wanted a family-friendly home, and formal rooms aren’t exactly where you can truly be together,” says Lisa Bogosian. “I really wanted to have the kids close to me, even while I’m cooking dinner.” The calacatta marble kitchen island, surrounded by Christian Liaigre bar stools and with Soane Britain Owl lanterns overhead, is where cheerful after-school conversations often begin. In the adjacent family room, a Flexform sofa, B&B Italia lounge chair and free-standing Christian Liaigre shelves provide another comfortable place to gather. Set above the vintage French portoro marble fireplace, a gilt-framed two-way mirror conceals a television.
The master suite offers wide views of the Golden Gate Bridge framed by rich Pierre Frey draperies. “I’ve always loved mixing older and modern pieces,” says Anderson. “Vintage European 1940s, 50s and 60s pieces placed alongside American designs by Harvey Probber and Edward Wormley that have exciting matte and shiny surfaces.” A chest by Wormley and a nightstand by Probber complement an Arkitektura side table, tufted-leather lounge chairs and a custom wool-and-silk carpet from Tai Ping. The de rigueur image of the Eiffel tower is by David Duncan Livingston. In the master bath, Jean de Merry’s Lumière chandelier from DeSousa Hughes, Patrick Naggar sconces from Ralph Pucci and a sleek custom vanity underscore the sophisticated tone. The secret to a refined yet dramatic look, however, is in not in the objects themselves but in how they are juxtaposed. “That requires perfect balance,” John Anderson says. “And extreme restraint.”

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