

The Greek Apartment

Studio _____ ABACO
Location _____ Paris, France
Square footage _____ 42 m² (452 ft²)

ABACO maximized all available space in a small apartment in a 1990s Parisian building to create a singular home for two actors.

As performers, the clients needed the living room to be open and dynamic, with furniture and functions designed to fit snugly into the boundary walls, leaving a stage for their practice.

The principal furniture elements are united in a single, unique piece of oak furniture. At the rear is the bathroom, constructed as a self-contained wooden box with a hidden door. This is the first element of the structure that leads into the apartment's main room to form the platform for the bed and runs along the wall to the window as an integrated storage unit holding the kitchen and reading niche.

On the opposite wall is a piece of undulating plastic that contains concealed closet space, floating shelves, and a large painted frame that serves as a home office or small dining table.

The clients were less interested in privacy than in freedom of movement, so the studio is conceived as a communal space where working, relaxing, performing, eating, and sleeping can all take place without strict boundaries. The bed's platform doubles as both a stage and seating area, and a lime-green curtain—concealed in a nook in the oak unit—is available to encircle the bed and provide a barrier if needed.

The architect was inspired by the clients' Greek heritage and chose to infuse the home with the colors of their homeland—the traditional bright-white paint found in Greek architecture and the blue of the Aegean Sea.

While the oak unit creates a coherent structure on one side of the apartment, the white plastic wall opposite plays many parts. Filled with hidden storage and dotted with specific items including coat racks, books, and the clients' beloved record player, perhaps most vitally "it acts as a screen to diffuse the light" with the angle of its ripples precisely measured to best reflect the sun's rays during the day.

Top An oak block houses all the functional elements of the apartment. Bottom Left A huge window ensures the open space is flooded with light throughout. Bottom Right Fixed elements on both walls contribute to the flexible, open-plan layout.

