

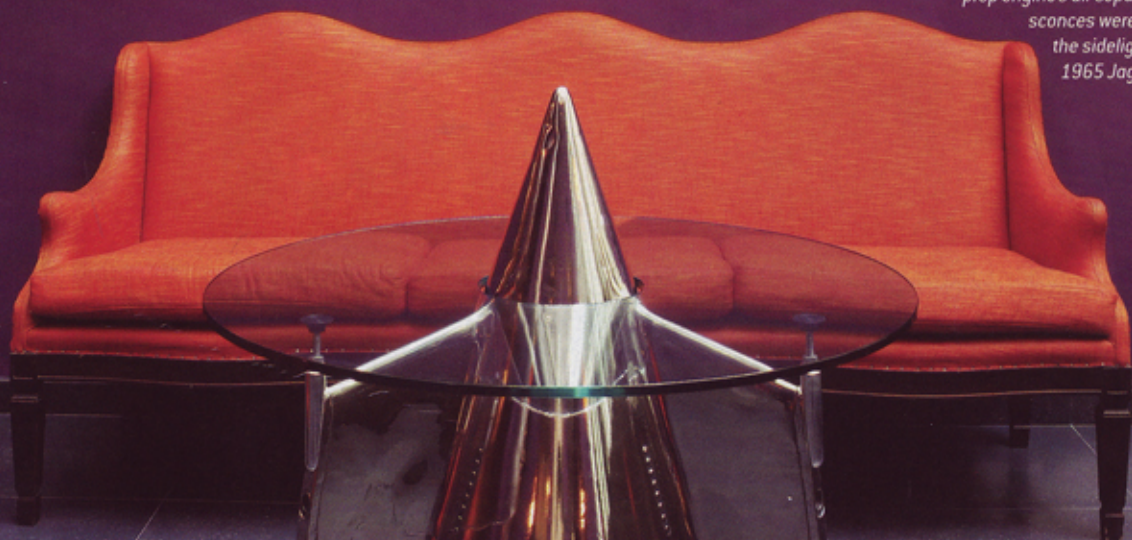
firm: maidenberg architecture site: paris



## military industrial complex

**Like a small conservatory,** its steel frame impeccably lacquered green, the Hôtel Windsor Opéra's single-story entry pops up unexpectedly on a street not far from the tatty hub-bub of the Paris garment district. "It was an old, small hotel, like so many that still exist here," Maidenberg Architecture's

*In the lobby of the Hôtel Windsor Opéra, Pierre Farman's table incorporates the cone of a turbo-prop engine's air separator, and his sconces were made from the sidelights of the 1965 Jaguar fighter.*







## walkthrough

Philippe Maidenberg says. "Almost everything was redone. Except the classic Parisian spirit."

In the part of the lobby housed in the conservatory structure, Maidenberg replaced glass in the roof, an 1850 original, and redesigned the facade's windows to align with the roof's struts. He also lowered the floor 16½ inches, truly to ground level, to allow for wheelchair access to the lobby and two guest rooms.

To provide a counterpoint to the ground level's anthracite-gray ceramic floor tile, he chose vivid colors: plum for walls, hot orange and molten yellow for upholstery and curtains. The 24 guest rooms come in quiet two-color combinations of pale or dark gray with pea green, blush pink, or lilac. Wonderfully old-fashioned wardrobes are painted in coordinating colors.

Much more modern is the segment of a Boeing 747 ➤

## hospitality

**Clockwise from top left:** Farman's sculpture, made from a propeller blade from a 1950 T6 fighter-pilot training aircraft, occupies a gilded niche in the lobby. Nearby, two of his sculptures incorporating auxiliary fuel reservoirs from 1960 Dassault Mirage III fighter jets stand beneath a restored steel-framed roof that dates to 1850. A section of a Boeing 747's cabin backs the reception desk, its counter a section of a 1965 Jaguar fighter's wing. Beneath a fiber-optic chandelier sit sofas upholstered in flame-retardant polyester.







## walkthrough

cabin that Maidenberg installed in the reception area. That single item inspired the hotel's owner, Vincent Haen, to acquire from designer and antiques dealer Pierre Farman a handful of furnishings and sculptures made from the highly polished aluminum of vintage aircraft. Suspended from the breakfast room's ceiling, the propeller of a cargo plane is flanked by cloudlike pendant fixtures. A pair of rocket-shaped

sentinels, actually the fuel reservoirs of fighter jets, stand guard in the lobby, where the sconces are jet sidelights. In a niche, a propeller blade from a fighter-pilot training plane reaches upward, referencing Constantin Brancusi's *Bird in Space*.

Farman just happens to belong to a famed aviation family. His grandfather Dick Farman was one of the founders of Air France. —Judy Fayard

## hospitality

**Clockwise from top:** In the breakfast room, a 1960 Dassault Flamant cargo plane's propeller, refurbished by Farman, hangs between pendant fixtures with flame-retardant diffusers. Lamps by Philippe Starck flank the custom velvet-upholstered headboard in a standard double. All guest rooms have oak flooring.

**Opposite:** Sofas in the junior suites fold out into additional beds.



**FROM FRONT PIERRE FARMAN:** CUSTOM TABLES, SCONCES (LOBBY), SCULPTURES (LOBBY, BREAKFAST ROOM), DESK COUNTER (RECEPTION), SCONCES (BREAKFAST ROOM). **COTTO D'ESTE THROUGH SURFACE:** FLOORING (LOBBY, RECEPTION, BREAKFAST ROOM). **THROUGH PIERRE FARMAN:** CABIN SEGMENT (RECEPTION). **MISE EN DEMEURE:** SOFAS (LOBBY). **DESIGNERS GUILD:** SEATING FABRIC (LOBBY), BANQUETTE FABRIC (BREAKFAST ROOM), CURTAIN FABRIC (BREAKFAST ROOM, GUEST ROOM), BEDCOVER FABRIC (GUEST ROOM, SUITE). **STUDIO ITALIA DESIGN:** PENDANT FIXTURES (BREAKFAST ROOM). **GO IN:** CUSTOM TABLES. **FLOS:** LAMPS (GUEST ROOM, SUITE). **MOBIRAMOS:** CUSTOM HEADBOARDS, BEDSIDE TABLES (GUEST ROOM, SUITE), CUSTOM DESK (GUEST ROOM). **SIMILI VI:** HEADBOARD FABRIC (GUEST ROOM, SUITE). **SEALY:** BEDS. **TESSALI:** SOFA BEDS (SUITE). **THROUGH-OUT ARGILE:** STRUCTURAL ENGINEER. **ALHYANGE ACOUSTIQUE:** ACOUSTICAL ENGINEER. **MIGDAL:** MEP. **AVENIR CONSTRUCTION:** STONEMASON. **ATELIERS EDI:** WOODWORK. **OLIVIER GILLOT:** GILDING CONTRACTOR. **PRD:** PAINTING CONTRACTOR.





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