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A tale of *two* Cities

Designer **Matthew Leverone** Has Created This Nob Hill Pied-a-Terre For A Man Who Lives Both In France And San Francisco

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LEFT With a compact floor plan of 1,200 square feet, Leverone designed the rooms to serve multiple functions. The living and dining areas are open to each other with areas for entertaining as well as reflection.

ABOVE The designer Matthew Leverone relaxes in the completed apartment.

S*an Francisco and France* have had a long love affair beginning when merchant Felix Verdier sailed through the Golden Gate in 1850. His ship bore the flag *Ville de Paris* and was laden with French wines and brandy for Gold Rush men and fine silks and lace for their women.

Verdier and his descendants enjoyed a charmed life traveling between San Francisco and France while operating their department store *The City of Paris*. Today the chic emporium is gone but there are still people who live dual lives between France and the Paris of the West. San Francisco interior designer Matthew Leverone's client is one of these lucky few.

During spring and summer this two nation resident lives in a country house in Burgandy while the other half of the year he resides in a mid century pied-à-terre on Nob Hill. The San Francisco home, which Leverone designed, features tones of ash gray and limestone with bold punches of steel blue and international orange. For the living room Leverone selected an indigo abstract by Tom Lieber that recalls the work of German-French painter Hans Hartung. He flanked this with custom club chairs upholstered in a slate blue linen velvet from Rose Tarlow. Centering these is a vintage Paul Laszlo table that is accented by a contemporary sculpture from Peter Boiger.



LEFT For the guest room Leverone chose a textured rug from Taiping to anchor the room. To complete the room he combined custom furniture and showroom pieces.

OPPOSITE A detail of the living room shows one of Leverone's custom club chairs. The rich wood of the tapered legs is echoed by the mahogany of the vintage Paul Laszlo side table and bronze Peter Bolger sculpture.





To separate the living room from the dining area Leverone floated a sleek one-armed sofa covered in a silver blue linen from Romo. He companioned this with a Jean-Michel Frank styled waterfall coffee table. Surveying the dining area is a watery dream-scape painted by Bay Area native Gary Ruddell. Art Deco styled mahogany dining chairs from Troscan surround an updated version of the classic harvest table. Illuminating the space is a chandelier from Roman Thomas. Its elliptical shape is echoed by a collection of telescope lenses mounted on bronze stands. The designer introduced rift cut Spessart Oak paneling as a backdrop that was continued into the kitchen.

Leverone created a sanctuary from city life in the master bedroom with walls upholstered in ivory wool. A luminescent painting by Gregg Renfrow can be viewed from the tailored bed with a headboard covered in Holly Hunt leather. The sensuous coral cashmere throw blanket from Loro Piana provides warmth on the cool autumn and winter months when the client lives here. Tucked into a corner window with views of Grace Cathedral, the designer staged a reading area using a diminutive A. Rudin club chair and an over scaled tripod floor lamp. Because the apartment is only 1,200 square feet, Leverone thoughtfully added a functional but elegant desk fabricated by Custom Furniture Designs.




OPPOSITE On the dining table a collection of antique telescope lenses mounted on graduating bronze stands creates visual interest.

LEFT The kitchen was originally a cold white which the designer warmed by facing the existing cabinets in rift cut Spessart Oak. For the extensive renovation Leverone utilized Matarozzi/Pelsinger Builders.

Leverone created a sanctuary from city life in the master bedroom.

Equally well thought out is the guest room for visiting friends. And again Leverone chose art as the inspiration for his design—one of Patrick Dintino's brightly hued spectrum paintings. Its vivid amber yellow and tiger lily colors are balanced by the room's shell of winter white. A divan covered in a Clarence House textile can be used as a bed or for casual seating. The Loop and Hook floor lamp designed by David Weeks references the 1950s architecture of the apartment. Steel and stone tables become a venue for

sculptor Adam P. Gale's organic shapes.

Just as the family that owned The City of Paris enjoyed living in the Paris of the West so does Leverone's client. Today all that remains of the Beaux Arts style department store is the stained glass dome from the original rotunda now installed in San Francisco's Neiman Marcus store. It depicts the Ville de Paris ship carrying French goods to San Francisco. Fortunately the relationship between the two cities has also endured. 



LEFT Above the bed in the master bedroom Leverone featured two minimalist prints by Japanese artist Seiko Tachibana.

OPPOSITE A whimsical touch is provided by a tripod primitive stool from M.S. Antiques in New York.

