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TRAVEL SPECIAL







# Seeing the light in Paris

Words Cheryl Livingstone



Olivier Lapidus

**H**aving grown up in the heart of Paris and spending several years in Japan, Olivier Lapidus' designs have been heavily influenced by what he has seen on his travels.

He grew up in a creative household, strongly influenced by the style of his French fashion designer father, Ted Lapidus.

Now Olivier has decided to take what he has learned in the fashion world and embrace interior design with the opening of the boutique hotel, Hotel Félicien, in Paris.

He said: "In my career as a fashion designer, I have always enjoyed combining new, high-tech materials with more traditional fabrics, and using innovative methods with age-old crafts. When I was approached to design Hotel Félicien, I saw the opportunity as a way to continue this approach; I was able to use innovative materials such as optical-fibre fabrics and light panels with traditional materials such as leathers, metals, ceramics and wool.

"For me, interior design was a natural progression from fashion design, and I was able to apply a lot of my experience as a fashion designer to designing Hotel Félicien; the optical fibre fabrics I used in my illuminated couture dresses have become the optical fibre curtains in





Hotel Felicien roof terrace





► the Hotel Félicien, the hand-painted silk materials I used to create unique bespoke clothing, have become artworks on the hotel walls.”

Each room at Félicien has a unique personality – no two rooms are the same – while every item in the hotel has been carefully chosen and designed, from bespoke desks and chairs to customised taps and specially-mixed paint colours. From black at the base to pearl at the top, and an accent colour on every floor, the hotel takes guests on a journey of exploration in design.

“The easiest part of the process was composing the look of the hotel; the shapes, the materials, the colours,” Olivier said.

“It was also a joy to learn more about the

craftsmanship of carpenters, builders, decorators and architects. One of the most difficult things was to get a feel for the entire space and having a 3D vision of it in my mind.

“To go from dressing a model facing me to envisioning the design of a whole building was a daunting but exciting experience. It was a challenge to create coherence in design from the basement to the rooftop. But conceiving an entire project from scratch was thrilling, like taking on an adventure.

“Hotel Félicien is like a whole other world,” Olivier added.

“I think it’s different to other hotels because it stems from the world of fashion and couture,

so has a strong focus on quality materials and textiles, shapes and colours. I think Hotel Félicien will appeal to people with a love for great design and quality materials.

“Lovers of art and fashion will feel at home at the Félicien. The couture designers with whom I have worked for the past 20 years have created the embellished hand-painted silk art works in the rooms, each work is exclusive. Each painting, each ambiance has been created with an obsessive attention to detail to ensure that the client receives the utmost in quality and comfort.”

Prices for double rooms start from around £169 per night and the suite with the private terrace from £330 per night. For more information, visit [www.hotelfelicienparis.com](http://www.hotelfelicienparis.com)

