

HOUSE & GARDEN®

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New Orleans' most stylish new hotel is a lesson in how to use gingham

The history of New Orleans is one of endless mingling, with French, Spanish, and Caribbean influences blending over the years to create an entirely distinctive culture. The newest and loveliest hotel in the city, the Hotel Peter & Paul, is certainly taking a hint from this pattern; having started off life in the 19th century as a convent, the hotel is bringing together elements of its religious past with decorative influences reminiscent of all things French.



HOTEL PETER & PAUL, NEW ORLEANS

Although the church, school house, convent and rectory that made up the Sts. Peter & Paul complex ceased to operate between 1991 and 2001, their demise coincided with an uptick in their neighbourhood's fortunes. The Faubourg Marigny, once a largely working class neighbourhood, had been steadily becoming gentrified from the 1970s onwards. The defunct buildings have now been restored over the course of four years by local resident and journalist Nathalie Jordi in partnership with New York design studio ASH NYC, and we're swooning over the interiors.

The design is respectful of the complex's past, with colour schemes inspired by Renaissance religious paintings and tapestries, and original features like stained glass windows and cypress wood mouldings kept in situ. The various buildings each have a slightly different aesthetic, and it's The School Room's custom-made gingham and trompe l'oeil painted cupboards that have us fascinated. Gingham has long been associated with France, not least since Brigitte Bardot's pink gingham wedding dress caused a shortage of the fabric in France in 1959. Twenty years earlier, the painter and illustrator Christian Bérard caused a stir with the trompe l'oeil painted interiors he created for the Institut Guerlain in Paris—these designs are now reflected on the cupboards in The School Room.