

AD

ROBERT  
DOWNEY JR.  
HIS HAMPTONS  
HIDEAWAY

HOLIDAY  
GIFTS YOU'LL  
WANT  
TO KEEP!



LIVING WITH ART  
COLLECTORS, CURATORS, AND ARTISTS  
BRING IT HOME

# CONTENTS *december*



# 80

INSIDE A LUIS LAPLACE-DESIGNED CHALET IN THE FRENCH ALPS.

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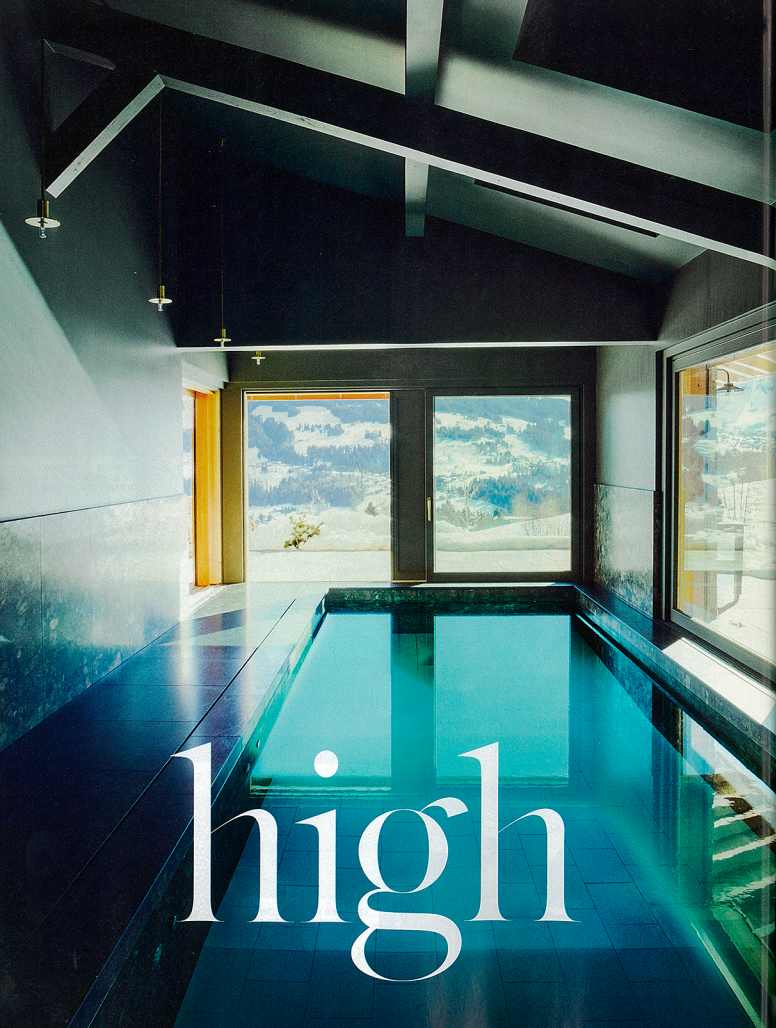
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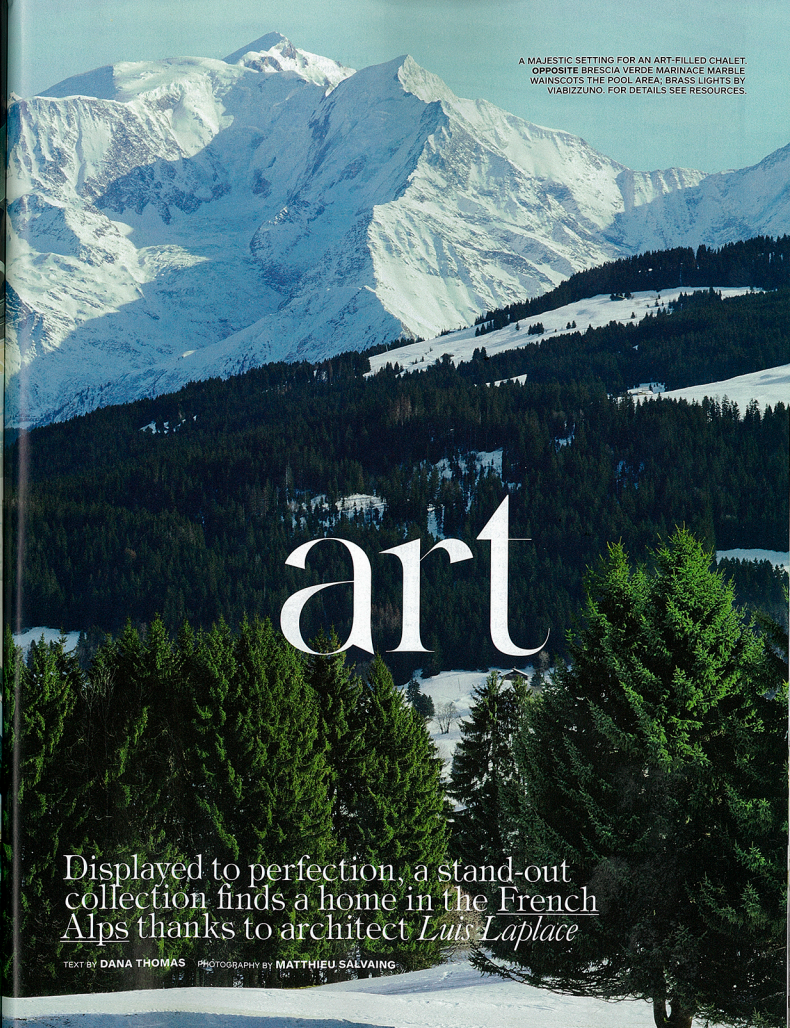
**ON THE COVER (NEWSSTAND)** ROBERT DOWNEY JR., WEARING AN ETRO SUIT AND SHIRT AND TOD'S BOOTS, AND HIS WIFE, SUSAN DOWNEY, WEARING AN ETRO DRESS AND PRADA SANDALS, AT THEIR HOUSE IN EAST HAMPTON. PRAYING-MANTIS SCULPTURE BY ANDRIUS PETKUS. "OFF SCREEN," PAGE 96. PHOTOGRAPHY BY FRANCOIS DISCHINGER, STYLED BY MICHAEL REYNOLDS. FASHION STYLING BY JEANNE YANG. HAIR AND MAKEUP BY DAVY NEWKIRK.



**ON THE COVER (SUBSCRIBERS)** INSIDE THE BROOKLYN HOME OF KAWS. ARTWORKS BY TOMMOO GOKITA (LEFT) AND GEORGE CONDO. KAWS BFF PLUSH CHAIR BY FERNANDO AND HUMBERTO CAMPANA. "ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE," PAGE 66. PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON SCHMIDT. STYLED BY MICHAEL REYNOLDS.



high



A MAJESTIC SETTING FOR AN ART-FILLED CHALET.  
OPPOSITE: BRESCIA VERDE MARINACE MARBLE.  
WAINSCOTS: THE POOL AREA: BRASS LIGHTS BY  
VIABIZZUNO. FOR DETAILS SEE RESOURCES.

art

Displayed to perfection, a stand-out collection finds a home in the French Alps thanks to architect *Luis Laplace*

TEXT BY DANA THOMAS PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATTHIEU SÉVAING



LEFT IN THE DINING ROOM, AN ALEXANDER ROSS PAINTING HANGS BEHIND A LAPLACE TABLE AND VINTAGE CHARLOTTE PERRAND CHAIRS; JONAH TAKAGI PENDANT. RIGHT THE MASTER BATH'S TUB IS BY THE WATER MONOPOLY, WITH WATERWORKS FITTINGS.



“When I see that something works, then I see the beauty,” *Laplace* says.

There are houses built for the image they project outward. And there are those conceived to support the life inside. Argentinian architect Luis Laplace is of the second school. “I believe that form follows function, not beauty for the sake of it,” he explains one bright morning in his Paris studio. “I say I don’t know beauty. When I see that something works, then I see the beauty.”

That was the approach Laplace used for the French Alps vacation home he created for art collectors who wanted the family getaway, he explains, to “be playful and used easily by everyone.” Hence the practical and memorably stylish rubber-paneled mudroom, where skis can be propped against the walls without a moment’s hesitation.

At the same time, the chalet needed to accommodate the owners’ serious and, at times, monumental works of art. As always, this was Laplace’s starting point, a technique he has honed as one of the main architects for the Hauser & Wirth art galleries. “We never use art as a decoration,” he explains. “We design for its installation and rotation.”

Laplace was thrilled to learn of the wife’s affinity for color as well as the designs of Belgian fashion star Dries Van Noten. “I love how Dries treats texture and color,” the architect says. And while Laplace confesses that “it’s hard to put art in an area of color” (the reason many collections are displayed amid neutral palettes), “it’s doable.” Here he chose watery blues, golden yellows, and burnt oranges, hues he describes as “calm,” especially when “you see the snow through the big windows.”

The trickiest space to outfit with art, Laplace notes, was the glass-enclosed indoor swimming pool. Then he remembered that the clients owned a video work by Swiss artist Pipilotti Rist. He decided to install the projector above the pool, with the water serving as the screen—it was a terrific idea, and one that Rist so loved that she came to help.

“Now you can open the shutters and swim with the Alps,” Laplace observes. “Or you can close them, play her video, and swim in her universe.” He sits back and smiles. “It’s pretty cool.”



“It’s hard to put art in an area of color,” the architect says. “But it’s doable.”

ABOVE, FROM LEFT A JEAN PERZEL PENDANT HANGS IN THE ENTRANCE HALL. THE MUDROOM FEATURES A KONSTANTIN GRIC BENCH AND CHESTNUT-AND-RUBBER CLOSETS. RIGHT THE HOUSE IS MADE OF LARCHWOOD AND LOCAL GRANITE. OPPOSITE THE TV-ROOM CEILING HOSTS A NEON ARTWORK BY JASON RHOADES, WHOSE SOLO EXHIBITION IS NOW OPEN AT THE BRANT FOUNDATION. LAPLACE SOFA AND OTTOMANS, TAI PING CARPET.



★ SEE THE POOL’S ART INSTALLATION AND MORE IMAGES AT [ARCHDIGEST.COM](http://ARCHDIGEST.COM).