



**FREAKS**  
freearchitects

**aJAP**  
2009-2010  
LES ALBUMS DES JEUNES  
ARCHITECTES & DES PAYSAGISTES

## OFFICE PRESENTATION

FREAKS freearchitects is a Paris-based architecture firm lead by three architects favouring prospection, research and experimentation through projects and building process practices from small scale art installations to large scale architecture competitions.

FREAKS freearchitects has been awarded the AJAP price from the French Ministry of Culture and Communication in 2010.

Although nowadays their built projects are mostly located in France, FREAKS's partners have lived and experienced a wide range of abroad working contexts such as San Francisco, Tokyo, Beijing, Berlin, Mumbai, Singapore, Istanbul...

Those sometimes chaotic urban surroundings drove them to integrate to their practice a rich and confident vocabulary of urban scenarios and architectural aesthetics.

The office is deeply involved in reacting towards the image of architecture/architect and their representations in a cynical and playful way.

Less is more, more is more, less is not enough.

## PROJECT PRESENTATION

FREAKS has been commissioned to work on the transformation of a 170sqm flat downtown Paris, Rue de Rivoli. The Rue de Rivoli, which goes from Place de la Concorde until Place de la Bastille, has been built under Napoleon the 1st. The very first part of the street, facing the Jardin des Tuileries was his own property and he might have lived here or there in one of those chic flats.

The order was to transform that high ceiling stateroom into a familial flat, including two new children bedrooms in addition with the parents one. Therefore, the main target was to create new connections through the rooms ; some doors have been closed, some others have been pierced to avoid the typical dead-end distribution system. The service rooms on the backyard, at the end of a long and narrow corridor, have been transformed into the children area, to which one can access by the service door, turning that part into an independent space within the flat. The bedrooms made profit of the high ceiling by embedding mezzanine, on which one can access by using a crinoline ladder.

A new kitchen + bathroom have been placed on the street side. Most of the existing moldings have been painted in white. The very cute Venetian style boudoir has only been renewed.

One of the main interventions consisted in opening the new kitchen towards the dining room while taking charge to use a contemporary architectural language within the space. No furniture or decoration were required, only a dozen of industrial waterproof neons (Sammode) with a special brass cladding have been used on the dining room and billiard room walls.

"We're getting more and more bored by the nice shots where everything is so clean, with the perfect Scandinavian-design chair, the perfect white orchid, the perfect art book on the table".

"Napoleon supposedly having lived there was a running joke among the building team and us, that's why we decided, the three of us, to sort of perform the photo shoot wearing Napoleon-style hats."

**WHERE** : PARIS, rue de Rivoli

**HOW BIG** : 170sqm

**HOW MUCH** : 200 000€ TTC

**FOR WHO** : Private client

**WITH WHAT** : wood, white concrete et paint, industrial ladders, Napoleon hats

**FEATURING** : Merlin, the greyhound

**PHOTO COPYRIGHT** : David Foessel