

PRESS RELEASE

ARABESQUE – POETIC URBAN SEATING

Pierre Renart takes over the gardens of the Hôtel de Rohan for Paris Design Week 2026



For the 2026 edition of **Paris Design Week** (September 10–19), **maison parisienne** gallery is proud to present **"Arabesque,"** a monumental site-specific installation by designer and master woodworker **Pierre Renart**.

Set within the prestigious **gardens of the Hôtel de Rohan**, this work enters into a dialogue with the history of an iconic Parisian heritage site, recently reopened to the public.

A dialogue between heritage and contemporary creation

The Hôtel de Rohan, an early 18th-century architectural jewel, has recently undergone extensive restoration. After years of being closed to the public for facade and roof repairs, the site is experiencing a long-awaited renaissance, highlighted by the reassembly of the Chancellerie d'Orléans decors and the restoration of the first floor.

The 2026 edition of Paris Design Week marks a significant milestone: the **reopening of the gardens of the Hôtel de Rohan**, which had been closed since 2018. Having newly reopened in June 2026 following the redevelopment of the National Archives quadrangle, this area now stands as one of the largest islands of coolness in the center of Paris.



It is at the heart of this reclaimed lush sanctuary that Pierre Renart unveils his latest creation: a piece of poetic urban seating. Extending the curves of the French formal parterres, a monumental bench crafted from Moabi wood transposes the garden's design into three-dimensional space.

This garden is part of a remarkable historic network, alongside the gardens of the hôtels d'Assy, de Breteuil, de Fontenay, and de Jaucourt, which together form a one-hectare green sanctuary. Renowned landscape designer Louis Benech — famous for his work at the Tuileries, Versailles, and the Élysée Palace — reimagined the harmony of these grounds in 2011, sublimating the historic perspectives inherited from the 17th and 18th centuries.

A sculptural ornament within the city, the work can be spotted from afar in the garden's perspective. While its **monumental structure** (4 x 2.50 meters, with a height of 2.70 meters) appears complex at first glance, visitors are invited to approach and discover its elegant simplicity, both in form and function. **Arabesque** transforms an ornamental motif into a livable space. It offers a dual seating arrangement, designed at an ideal height of 45 cm, allowing guests to contemplate both the garden and the facade of the Hôtel de Rohan simultaneously: one side features a comfortable bench with a backrest, while the other offers a daybed-style lounge.

The public is invited to go beyond mere observation and physically engage with the site. The sculpture encourages touch and movement, following its curves with both eye and hand. Whether sitting, leaning, or lying down for a moment of rest, visitors can claim this sculpture as their own. The enveloping curve overhead creates an intimate alcove for daydreaming, while remaining a space for conviviality and exchange at the heart of this historic layout.



Mastery of wood: Pierre Renart's endless ribbon

Represented by **maison parisienne** gallery since 2011, Pierre Renart redefines the codes of fine cabinetry by merging traditional craftsmanship with high technology. For this seamless piece, he utilizes the technique of laminated wood made from thin veneer sheets, creating the illusion of a single, infinite ribbon. The natural copper hue of the Moabi wood adds a contemporary signature to the work, subtly echoing the mineral and botanical tones of the garden.

This project follows his major site-specific installations, including Escale at the Hôtel de la Marine (2024), the Möbius bench in the Hall des Maréchaux (2024), and his monumental works for the lobby of 22 Bishopsgate in London. Pierre Renart's work is now held in prestigious collections, including the Musée des Arts Décoratifs (MAD) in Paris, the Mobilier National, the Palais des Rois de Sardaigne in Nice, and the Hôtel Solvay in Brussels.

maison parisienne: Celebrating craftsmanship and "savoir-faire"

Founded in 2008 by Florence Guillier Bernard, **maison parisienne** gallery is dedicated to Masters of Materials whose work sits at the intersection of contemporary art, fine craft, and French design. The gallery curates an ageless aesthetic, prioritizing unique pieces and limited editions.

Specializing in off-site projects, the gallery has organized over 70 international exhibitions. From the Coraux de la Liberté installation at the Colonne de Juillet (2025) to its presentations at the Hôtel Solvay in Brussels, maison parisienne strives to create a singular dialogue between contemporary works and architectural masterpieces.

Practical information:

Venue: Gardens of the Hôtel de Rohan – National Archives, Paris 3rd Arrondissement

Entrances: 11 rue des Quatre-Fils or 60 rue des Franc-Bourgeois

Event: Paris Design Week 2026

Launching during "Les Traversées du Marais"
and continuing through the European Heritage Days

Dates: Friday, September 4 to Sunday, September 20, 2026

Hours: Daily, 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM

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