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City Le Bristol, Paris, France

LAST September, when the gold and glass revolving doors at Le Bristol started to turn again, they revealed refurbished suites and a majestic replanting of the courtyard garden by Arabella Lennox-Boyd. ‘I designed it for an all year round look,’ she explains. ‘It has lots of evergreen structure and topiary. I love the [English] countryside and believe in a lateral look. I think it makes people feel

happier, so I’ve broken up the structure with informality that blooms all year round.’

Lady Lennox-Boyd didn’t draw inspiration from Paris itself, but from what she believed Paris needed—a foil to the cosmopolitan city outside the hotel walls. ‘I wanted to design something that feels as if it belongs, but, at the same time, feels free.’ Even before the interior refurbishment, Le Bristol was the first hotel in Paris to be awarded ‘Palace’ status and, although the design remains on the side of traditional, it echoes the city’s

The refurbished Le Bristol blends the best of English informality and Parisian style

own dual characteristics. ‘It’s immensely elegant and interesting,’ says Lady Lennox-Boyd. ‘It has kept a very intimate feeling and hasn’t changed over all the years I’ve been going there. It has retained its character.’

As she points out: ‘The French just have really good style.’

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