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HOW DO YOU BUILD A SEVEN-STORY LOVE LETTER TO PARIS?

RH CEO Gary Friedman has realized a life's dream with this fall's opening of RH Paris—equal parts gallery, emporium, design studio, library, and must-see restaurants.

BY CHRISTINE MUHLKE PUBLISHED: SEP 22, 2025



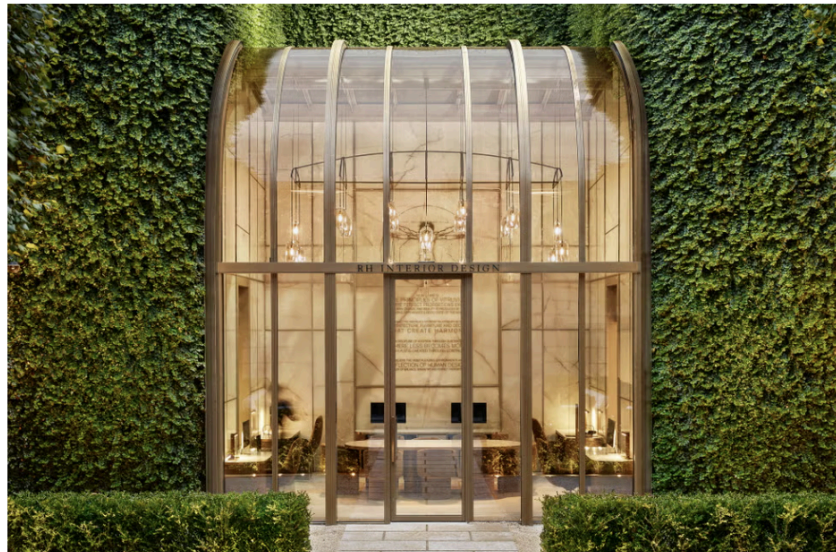
Above: The rooftop at RH Paris. Head there after nightfall to snag a photo with the Eiffel Tower's 20,000 bulbs sparkling.

With its grandly Zen showrooms and its embrace of a plush lifestyle that has pushed into private planes and Aspen residences, it's no surprise that RH is summitting the peak of design by opening RH Paris, the Gallery on the Champs-Élysées. The palatial seven-

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story building, which opened in September, is what chief executive Gary Friedman calls a love letter to Paris.

“We took it to a level we’ve never taken anything to,” Friedman says. “We said, ‘Look, we’re never going to get to do this again in our lifetime, so let’s leave no doubt.’” During three years of construction, Friedman and his team built something worthy of a place he has revered since his first visit to Paris, when his then-boss, Williams-Sonoma founder Chuck Williams—then in his eighties—toured him around the city.



Courtesy Of RH

The RH Interior Design Studio is housed in a glass conservatory.

A dramatic mood is cast as you approach the building, which is steps from Avenue Montaigne: It’s the only one on this fabled avenue that lacks a front door. Instead you pass through 22-foot-tall gilded gates (which are protected by the Architecte des Bâtiments de France) into a hornbeam allée covered in limestone gravel where there are discreet groupings of outdoor furniture. The grand bronze doors of the main building are so striking that their cast medallions can be found, like 19th-century Easter eggs, incorporated into details throughout the space.

The fountain-flanked vestibule features a replica of

Leonardo da Vinci's iconic *Vitruvian Man*, with accompanying text citing RH's design ethos based on principles of proportion developed by the ancient Roman architect and author Vitruvius. Among them: "Beauty is produced by the pleasing appearance and good taste of the whole." Next, there is the RH library of architecture, design, and landscape architecture, anchored by a rare 1521 printing of *De Architectura* by Vitruvius. "That right there tells you something's different: I'm not walking into a furniture store," Friedman says.



Courtesy Of RH

At Le Jardin RH, pictured here, the lobster roll is a must, while the World of RH Bar & Lounge has a Clean Dirty Martini (with distilled olive gin), and Le Petit RH serves caviar cones.

This is a gallery, one that combines pieces from the RH Modern, RH Interiors, and RH Outdoors collections with art, rare antiques and artifacts, and custom commissions from global artisans. The seven floors and two restaurants are connected by a one-of-a-kind glass and brass elevator designed with Foster + Partners that opens directly onto the rooftop and then sinks back into the atrium below, so as not to obstruct the views of the Eiffel Tower, the Grand Palais, and I.M. Pei's glass pyramid at the Louvre. The Grand Palais inspired the design of Le Jardin RH restaurant, where the menu ranges from rotisserie chicken to burgers and seafood towers.

Tucked within the restaurant is a wine bar carved from white onyx, a material used dramatically throughout the space. "We said, 'We can't stop there,'" Friedman says. "'We've got to make the bathrooms out of white onyx.' These might be the most beautiful bathrooms anywhere on the planet."