



BOY WONDER

Design prodigy Edgar Jayet weaves literature and history into works recognized with a major French honor.

Photographs by Trevor Tondro

THE 26-YEAR-OLD PARIS- AND VENICE-BASED INTERIORS AND furniture designer Edgar Jayet was already itching to be in proximity to beautiful craftsmanship by the time he started a school program learning about press relations for the Swiss manufacturer Vitra, at 13. A rigorous education in interior architecture and design at École Camondo, a sister institution to the Musée Nissim de Camondo, in Paris, followed.

While still a student, Jayet was awarded the Grand Prix Van Cleef & Arpels for his and artist Victor Fleury Ponsin's design of a "bedroom for naps," inspired by the writings of Albert Camus. His *Unheimlichkeit* collection, presented last year at Sofia Zevi gallery, in Milan, evolved this marriage of



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Edgar Jayet in the doorway of his studio in Paris. Armchairs from the *Unheimlichkeit* collection that were acquired this year by the Mobilier National. Jayet's workspace. edgarjayet.com



historical reference and reinterpretation: the mortise-and-tenon-joined pearwood furnishings feature cotton-canvas paneling by textile designer Chiarastella Cattana, woven as it would have been in the 1800s for military supply.

A suite of aluminum stools with seats made of silver passementerie (typically used for trimmings) came next. "Contemporary design can still be connected to the thousands of years of design that came before," says Jayet. It is this singular vision that has garnered the wunderkind his most remarkable achievement to date: a pair of armchairs from the *Unheimlichkeit* collection were acquired this year by France's Mobilier National. —*Camille Okhio*