



# AD

ATHENA CALDERONE TAKES MANHATTAN

# PERSONAL BEST

Top Tastemakers at Home

# OBJECT LESSON

THE STORY BEHIND AN ICONIC DESIGN



## Door Dash

How *Jean Prouvé's* industrial portals became one of the hottest design trophies on the market

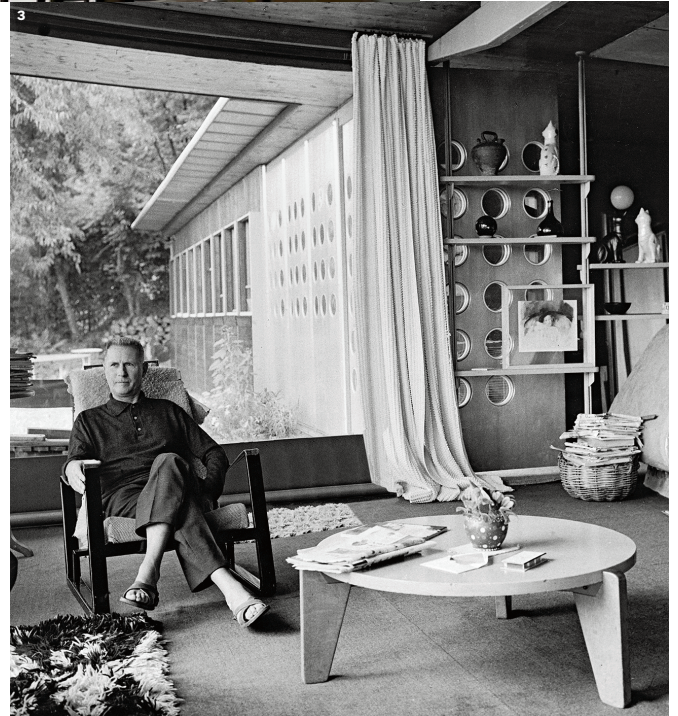
In 1925, long before he designed his famous demountable houses and utilitarian furniture, French architect Jean Prouvé created two large wrought-iron doors for the Pavillon de Nancy at the Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes, a showcase that christened the Art Deco movement in Paris. Here, introduced to a modernist vernacular, Prouvé developed a material crush: strong and malleable sheet steel.

Four years later, he was using it in designs for doors, partitions, windows, even elevator shafts, which he would go on to mass-produce. Such components would become hallmarks of his residences, municipal buildings, ocean liners, and houses, in which this catalog of parts was used to make streamlined, machinelike structures.

Until 1953 Prouvé produced this range of tactical-looking elements at his factory near Nancy, France. Made in both sheet steel and later aluminum, the pieces were typically tailored to the climate and terrain of their destination. Many featured porthole windows that let in sun and made the panels lighter—an essential element for ease of transport, particularly useful for his relief structures that were intended to be dropped on-site by aircraft.

After leaving his workshop in the '50s, a cash-strapped Prouvé used castoffs to build his own home in the hills above Nancy. Patrick Seguin, whose gallery works with Prouvé's estate, calls it "a personal manifesto, where doors and panels designed for mass production are reintegrated into a domestic setting."

While Prouvé's components never fully infiltrated the market as go-tos for architects and builders, those produced in his lifetime have steadily seeped into the collector market. Some collectors, like AD100 designer Steven Volpe, in a soaring Manhattan apartment, or The Row, for their Paris store, have used them as originally intended, while others exhibit them as works of art. Appropriate, considering that examples are owned by New York City's MoMA and Paris's Centre Pompidou. As Volpe explains, "These fragments aren't decorative—they carry history, material integrity, and a modernist vision that still resonates today." —HANNAH MARTIN



1. A PRIVATE HOME IN PARIS FEATURES TWO CIRCA 1949 PROUVÉ PANELS WITH PORTHOLE WINDOWS. 2. A MANHATTAN APARTMENT DESIGNED BY STEVEN VOLPE FEATURES AN INTEGRATED PROUVÉ DOOR. 3. THE FRENCH ARCHITECT IN HIS HOME IN NANCY, WHICH WAS MADE WITH CAST-OFF ARCHITECTURAL COMPONENTS FROM HIS NEARBY FACTORY, CIRCA 1962. 4. THE ROW BOUTIQUE IN PARIS.



1. MARC DOMAGE. 2. STEPHEN KENT JOHNSON. 3. VERA CAROOTY & PIERRE JOLY. 4. COURTESY OF THE ROW.