

Modern Master Bedroom

Chelsea gallery Demisch Danant has made it a mission to showcase the work of lesser-known mid-century modern visionaries. In keeping with that philosophy, Joseph André Motte, a French designer, was given the spotlight at the gallery's recent show "The Art of Living" (until Feb. 9)—his first in America. Though perhaps not a household name, Motte's mass-produced pieces for the household remain among the most influential furnishings designed to complement the

modern architecture and sensibilities of post-war France.

Pictured here is a bedroom arranged in the Demisch Danant Gallery to resemble Motte's 1954 exhibition in Paris at the Salon des Arts Ménagers. Central is the 1954 *frêne* (ash) daybed, positioned between two Jacques Biny-designed enameled metal sconces, also from the 1950s. The 1956 *Coiffeuse* seen here, hewn also from *frêne* with mahogany drawers and a pop-out vanity, epitomizes the sleek lines and

innovative economy distinct among great mid-century modern designs. It's situated next to a 1954 chest of four drawers that bears a similar sensibility. Lest there be no place to sit and chat, the set-up features two of Motte's chairs—*Corb Armchair* from 1950 with leather upholstery and wood legs and the *Sabre Chair* from 1954, in one of the designer's favorite materials to work with, rattan. A stool with a curved seat, also from 1954

and crafted in rattan, sits nearby. One of the later-dated items in the room—a multi-material low table in glass, lacquered metal, and wood—was designed by another Frenchman, René Jean Caillette, with whom Motte, Alain Richard, and Genevieve Dangles formed the design collaboration Group 4.—SARAH E. FENSOM

