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Holm suite home

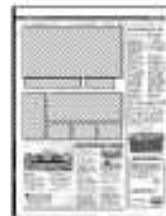
TRAVELSEEN

I CAN'T wait to visit Holm House (stand P64) in the flesh after seeing photographs of the 12-room boutique hotel which opened in Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan, in May. The decor is varyingly opulent, cosy and eccentric, merging furniture and furnishings from Phillipe Starck, Tom Kirk, Osborne and Little and Neisha Crosland. Rooms vary — pick from those with very modern dark-wood four-posters with gold slipper baths or a softer looking silver and white theme. Doubles from £175, www.chicretreats.com.

The 39-room Hotel Le Keppler (stand P154) is due to open next month in Paris in the centre of the Champs-Élysées area and the chic 16th district. Part of the Epoque group (the Zetter in Clerkenwell and Design suites in Buenos Aires), it's designed by Pierre-Yves Rochon, the high-powered team behind L'Atelier de Joel Robuchon, Monte Carlo Bay Resort and the Four Seasons Hotel les Bergues. The look is clubby in the old-fashioned sense — there's a cosy bar and elegant winter garden, the rooms are smartly masculine with lots of check, thick hanging drapes and prints, while white marble bathrooms have quaint pastoral wallpaper. Top-floor suites have terraces and balconies overlooking Paris and the Eiffel Tower. Gym, sauna and steam room. Doubles from €390.

Meanwhile, over in Amsterdam, the boutique Roemer hotel, also part of Epoque, is converted from two 18th-century mansions highly modernised with an oh-so-cool lobby with a seemingly endless white leather sofa, cowhide rug and vast, camp black-and-white photograph of Dolly Parton.

The 23 rooms have modern art on the walls, walk-in rain showers and iPod docking stations. Doubles from €159, www.epoquhotels.com.



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Take your pick: cosy yet eccentric at Holm House. Right, modern touches at the historic Roemer