



have all these somewhat disorienting, intersecting glimpses that, try as you might, you can't understand. The space possesses you; you don't possess it." A typical example is the main staircase, whose polished stainless-steel frame creates reflections that distort your vision. Walls are set at angles and there are various ways of moving through the apartment - you can, for example, access the office from the living-room by ladder. As you do so, you are treated to different visions of the same space. Viñas herself was originally flummoxed. "It's such a mind-warp," she says. "It was difficult to get a full grasp of the project."



Clockwise from top left The guest room with mural from [flavorpaper.com](http://flavorpaper.com); the kitchen with 'A' stools ([hale-id.com](http://hale-id.com)); Float loungers by Paola Lenti on the rooftop terrace; a young visitor (with harness) tries out the climbing wall



husband, "but also by *Wallace & Gromit*. I liked the idea of sliding down to breakfast directly from bed!" he says. It was made in Germany, hoisted on to the balcony with a crane, and welded and polished in situ.

"It's a tour de force of metalwork and a superb feat of engineering," says Hotson.

"It's also very practical," says Viñas, somewhat disingenuously. "It's not just a toy. You use it to get down from the second floor really quickly."

But the slide also provides endless fun - as well as a few frights. "Every so often somebody will completely freak out, just in a good way," says the husband. "It's blood-curdling because the slide acts like a massive amplifier. The first time it happened was with Ghislaine. The noise was horrifying. Then we realised she was still alive!" ● [hotson.net](http://hotson.net); [gvinteriors.com](http://gvinteriors.com)

Hotson and Viñas introduced lots more quirky, tongue-in-cheek touches. Hotson designed a labyrinth for the clients' two cats, Lady Penelope and Brains, that allows them to move from room to room. He also added clever, peekaboo views, for example by piercing a slot in a medicine cabinet in one of the bathrooms, so that you can look across the apartment, through a window, all the way to the Manhattan Bridge. "All you see is this miniature image of the bridge, which looks as though it is sitting on the

shelf like a souvenir you brought back from your vacation," Hotson says. Viñas, meanwhile, created a crazy mural inspired by Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch in one of the guest rooms and chose a vivid floral print for a sofa on a glass platform above the living-room. But what about that wonderful stainless-steel slide? Many of the most playful ideas, such as the chute, came from the clients. "It was inspired by Carsten Höller's *Test Site 2006* installation at Tate Modern in London," says the