

Mlle. Spinelly, Pampered Pet of the Paris Stage

Her House, Her Bed, Her Bath, Her Scented Swimming Pool, All Designed and Decorated for Her by the Artists and Architects of Gay Bohemia



Her Sunken Bath Tub in Her Boudoir.

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EVERYBODY in the fashionable world of Paris is talking about the wonderful house of Mademoiselle Andree Spinelly and the strange Oriental luxury in which she lives and the intoxicating entertainments which she gives there. Those who have once taken part in her entertainments act as if they were bewitched and can scarcely tear themselves away from the scene of their enchantment. It is like the story of some ancient enchantress and her magic palace and gardens, where men were held under a spell.

Andree Spinelly is now the favorite actress of the Parisian stage. Originally a music hall star, she graduated into a legitimate comedienne. She interprets the very latest phases of Parisian life. Her wit is the very latest expression of a form of mental exercise in which Paris has always been pre-eminent. To convey the least idea of its significance in English is nearly impossible.

Spinelly's success on the stage and popularity in social life have brought her great wealth. Hence her ability to maintain a palace of enchantment. While the war has raised the cost of living enormously, so that the ordinary Frenchman is reduced to the point of beggary, it has raised the rewards of a few actresses to a higher point than ever before.

The luxurious classes have become more luxurious. Stage favorites like Andree Spinelly and a score of others spend ten times as much on lingerie and other articles of personal adornment as they did formerly.

The house of Mademoiselle Spinelly is a solid reality, a thing of luxury and comfort, whatever may be the mystical and magical doings of those who dwell within.

Some of the best known architects, artists and decorators of Paris co-operated to create for her a house that would realize her every longing. This was their way of paying tribute to her charm and her talent. Among the brilliant and original artists who took part in designing the house were George Barbier, George Lepape and Paul Iribe.

Every luxury the little charmer could think of was incorporated in the house. Because she thought it would be nice to have two bathtubs two were constructed for her, both let into the floor of the house and lined with beautiful glazed bricks.

One bathtub is that in which she removes from her exquisite person with scented soaps and unguents such foreign matter as may have accumulated thereon. The other bathtub is really a swimming pool, in whose warmed and scented waters she passes her leisure hours and entertains her delighted guests.

The atmosphere of the house is Greek, but with indescribably Parisian touches. The most impressive feature is the great hall or atrium, the main apartment of the house, where Mademoiselle Spinelly holds her large receptions, not those at which

she initiates her intimates to the esoteric mysteries.

The floor and walls of the great hall are in mosaic. The beautiful design is not painted on the wall, but is made in plaster relief colored black and gold. A fountain plays into a mirrored well in the centre, while on the ceiling myriads of frosted electric lights glow in lines of scrupulous symmetry.

Here and there odd little holes to serve as windows are cut in the wall. Through these faces peep at you like fairies in an enchanted palace.

The wonderful bathroom recalls the luxurious baths of ancient Greece, Rome and Egypt, when bathing was a fine art and not a base necessity.

The walls are of enamelled brickwork in which a lovely design has been burnt in colors. Birds and butterflies in light, cheerful colors chase one another in the upper reaches of the walls, while below are cool fishes and watery reptiles. For practical purposes the bricks are similar to tiles, but they are said to be more artistic and durable.

The swimming pool is so large that Mlle. Spinelly can take a little swim in it. Here she is accustomed to entertain her intimate friends who appreciate the artistic beauties and luxuries of her home.

The pool will hold as many as twenty persons, although it is not customary to crowd it as full as that.

The privileged visitors attire themselves in silken robes of suitable color harmonizing with the surroundings and sink their bodies into the pellucid pool. The water is warmed up to an agreeable temperature and scented with some refreshing perfume. Tea and wines are served to the revellers as they recline on the edges and steps of the swimming pool. When the inclination seizes them they can plunge into the clear waters or gambol with their fellow revellers.

The beauty of the hostess, the artistic surroundings, the subdued lighting, the scented atmosphere, the delicate beverages and the warmth of the rippling water carry the guest completely out of his senses.

In thus providing for the amusement of her friends Mlle. Spinelly has taken a hint from some of the most famous sybarites of ancient times. It will be recalled that the Emperor Tiberius in his celebrated retreat at Capri derived the greatest enjoyment from his bathing pools. Other Roman emperors made themselves popular by constructing enormous baths where the people of the city found their greatest pleasure.

In face Mlle. Spinelly is very attractive and piquante, but it is her figure which excites most admiration. She has

been termed the possessor of the prettiest legs in Paris.

The scented parties in the swimming pool are not the only extraordinary entertainments which have been given in Spinelly's marvelous abode. She has a strange knowledge of perfumes like that enjoyed by Lucretia Borgia and the enchantresses of the Middle Ages.

In a beautiful salon, with dim colored lights, the guests repose on rose-colored cushions until the emanations of subtle perfumes, rising from jewelled jars and braziers, steal away their senses and finally they pass into a trance of ecstasy.

The Parisian method of enjoying strange perfumes has been termed "the seventh sin."

Mlle. Spinelly's bedroom is naturally one of the interesting apartments of her wonderful house. The bed is a most luxurious and original construction and the result of long planning. It contains three different divisions. On the left is the place where she sleeps. In the centre is the place where she sometimes sits up in a dainty peignoir and receives her intimate friends, who sit around the bed.

On the right hand side is the division where she lies when she eats her breakfast, reads a book or goes through such of her routine affairs of the day as can easily be attended to in bed.

The bed does not rest on legs like an ordinary bed, but is placed on a substantial dias. The steps leading up to it are termed a "terraced decumbence." The walls of the room have a



Mlle. Spinelly and Her Enormous Bed with Terraced Decumbence on Each Side, Designed for Her by Poiret.



Mlle. Spinelly.

The Vaulted Bathing Pool with Decorations in the Tiles Contributed by Artist Admirers—Here Mlle. Spinelly Holds Receptions and Serves Tea.

background of blue, decorated with little figures suggestive of fortune and happiness.

In this remarkable bed Mlle. Spinelly believes that she obtains the maximum of rest and comfort.

The metal work of the bedstead is Japanese bronze of quaint design. The furnishings are all masterpieces of art. The large central pillow is trimmed with priceless Venetian lace. The breakfast pillow

is covered with Neapolitan brocade velvet. The sleeping pillow comes from the cell of a Buddhist house. The cover of the bed is a cloth from an ancient Spanish cathedral.

Only the barest suggestion has been given here of the mysteries and beauties of this house. There are secret doorways leading to hidden chambers and corridors, in which one can lose oneself. Darkened velvets are provided for those who wish to indulge in silent rest and peaceful com-

panionship. Although the house is of moderate size it creates the impression of being boundless.

Andree Spinelly has overshadowed the other noted beauties of Paris by the novelty of her new possession. Mlle. Greuze, Gaby Deslys, Monna Delza, Eva Lavalliere excited envy by the value of their possessions—their jewels, their pictures, their precious bibelots and so forth. Spinelly surpasses them all by having a house that is quite unique.