



'I have a really good
friend who lives here, so
I waited for an apartment
to open up. I wanted
the right one.'



Gerald DeCock

is a hairdresser who has lived at the Chelsea Hotel for two years. 'I used gold leaf because I was

looking for a quality that was really rich with duotones as well as having a metallic feel, and I experimented with a few different techniques. I love colours – I wanted it to be intense and have deep but bright colours.

'I found most of the furniture at the flea market, like my couch, which was black before I spray-painted it orange. I like to manipulate the furniture that I find, to make it more my own.

'Its really weird; even though this is a hotel and there are so many people living here, when I

come home and shut my door I feel alone. The walls are really thick and I have a roof garden to escape to – it's really quite tranquil.

'Since I've lived here, I've suddenly felt inspired to take up painting. I don't know if it's the energy of this hotel or what. The Chelsea Hotel has got a unique feeling about it and people either love it or hate it. It's a bit like the Hotel California – you can check out anytime you like but you can never leave.

'The Gap ads were done here. They used the wall near my front door with all the different colours. It was shot by Mario Testino. I only really let the flat out for special things.'