A House Designed by Jean Prouvé Has Popped up in Paris

Visitors to Design Miami. Paris can now go inside the architect's former summer house.



Ivan Erofeev

A house designed by French architect Jean Prouvé has been installed in Paris as part of the Design Miami.Paris show.

Overseen by Laffanour Galerie Downtown, the installation features one of Prouvé's famed demountable homes named "Carnac", which was designed back in 1946 for his family as a summer retreat.

"The house reflects Prouvé's genius for combining functionality and elegance in a compact, easily transportable design," said the gallery. "A true testament to his forward-thinking approach to architecture, it remains an enduring symbol of innovation in modern living spaces."

While this one was designed for Prouvé himself, many of these demountable structures had been created as a solution for those made homeless during World War II.

Components were shipped the villages in the Lorraine region of France. Each was engineered to be rapidly assembled and disassembled, and took only two people one day to complete. Because steel was in short supply at the time, the majority of the structure was crafted in wood that was inserted into the metal frame.

Now, as part of the Design Miami.Paris public program (which takes place alongside the Art Basel fair), Laffanour Galerie Downtown is giving visitors the chance go inside the Prouvé summer house for themselves, in the gardens of the Hôtel de Maisons. Inside, the space has been furnished mostly with Prouvé furniture, but designs by Charlotte Perriand also feature.

Design Miami. Paris is on show until October 20. Find out more here.