

***swan (n)***

rue chatebrise  
january 2020

studio●haumea



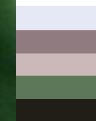
*Chantebrise is the language of the wind. Only the druids have the secret of understanding it. Guardians of Knowledge and Wisdom, protectors of nature, intermediaries between heaven and earth, the druids tell men what the wind has whispered in their ears.*

« In each of the parts of the globe springs a source whose waters are real fountains of youth. The first source is at the bottom of Africa, in the kingdom of Abyssinia; it is born from the very sources of the Nile. The second feeds a bottomless lake at the foot of Mount Ararat in Asia; this lake engulfed the waters of the flood. Finally, the third flows into Europe, in Bohemia, where the Sudetenland region flattens into a plain; its waters form a pond, Swan Lake, which takes its name from the laughing valley that the natives call the Swan Field.

Many of the beautiful women on earth today are still descending from the race of the fairies and only half of their being belongs to the family of the mortals. It is on the charms of these mortals coming straight - even if it is in the thousandth degree - from a fairy, that the fountains of youth have power. For this to happen, they must take a bath in their waves every year at the time of the solstice, when spring faces summer and the sun enters the sign of cancer.

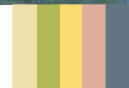


One day Leda, queen of Sparta came to the source. Zeus seduced her, disguised as a swan. He bequeathed to his female descendants the ability to take, at their discretion, the shape of the swan. They come out of their mother's womb wearing an aerial tunic; as long as it is clothed, the woman who wears it has the shape of the swan and enjoys the ability to soar with a rapid flight above the clouds. Many descendants of Zeus and Leda thus make the journey in this form every year to the source of Bohemia, Swan Lake, pledge of the gift so precious for a woman, of perpetual youth and unalterable beauty.



It is not difficult to distinguish the natural swans from the swan-women who came to take their annual youth bath. The latter have their heads decorated with a crown of feathers. In the early morning, before the hour when the oblique rays of light come to hit the surface of the water, or in the evening when after sunset its dying clarity still dore the clouds of the west, the swans crowned with feathers fall into the reeds, leave their aerial tunic on the shore and, becoming nymphs, play in the waves.

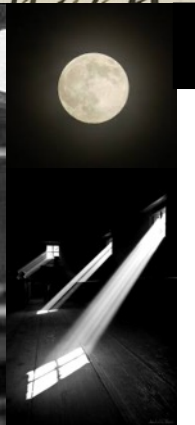
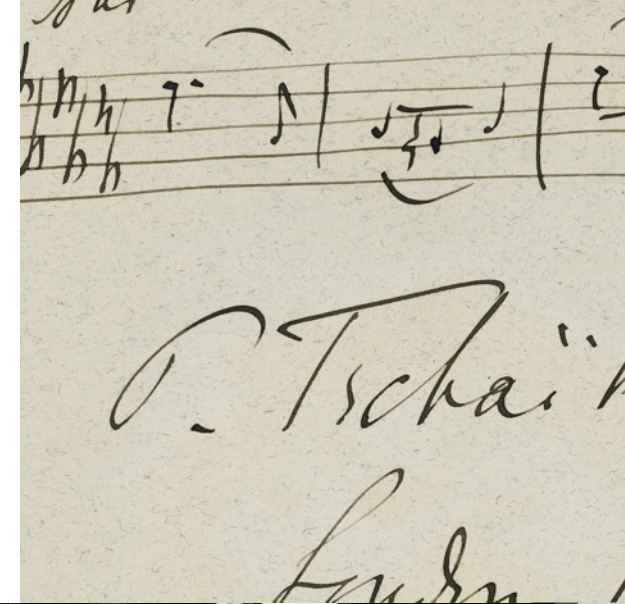
Legend has it that one day fate offered this spectacle to the gaze of a man. Subjugated with desire, he stole the veil of one beauty found on the shore and thus deprived her of her gift of flying. Only true love could one day give her back her wings...



Thus spoke the wind in the ear of the druids. This legend of swan-women crossed time and borders. It inspired many poets and artists.

In 1875, in Russia, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky composed the ballet in 4 acts *Lebedinoye ozero*, which became famous worldwide as *Swan Lake*. His compatriot Begichev wrote the libretto, the love story of Siegfried and Odette, condemned by magic to be a swan by day and a woman by night.

This classical ballet is an allegory about beauty and desire expressed by the duality of the white swan and the black swan. The mirror game between Odette and Odile is the game of day and night, sunlight and lunar clarity.



Was it while listening to Tchaikovsky's music that Marcel Proust had the idea of his characters? In *Un amour de Swann*, Charles Swann meets Odette de Crécy. Over the course of the novel, love is born in Swann and transforms his perception of Odette. She soon embodies for him the supreme beauty, perfection. She is a white swan. Love nourishes but desire burns and Swann's view of the beautiful Odette changes over the pages. She becomes a black swan.

*He climbed with her into the car she had and told his to follow. She held in her hand a bouquet of catleyas and Swann saw, under her lace fanchon, that she had in her hair flowers of the same orchid attached to an egret made of swan feathers. She was dressed, under her mantilla, in a stream of black velvet which, by an oblique catch-up, discovered in a wide triangle the bottom of a white fault skirt and showed an yoke, also of white fault, at the opening of the neckline bodice, where other catleya flowers were sunk.*



# Marcel Proust

## *Un amour de Swann*



Game of doubles again in the cinema this time in the movie *Pirates of the Caribbean*. The pirate woman's name is Swann, Elisabeth Swann.



Brief lexicon:

Swann's epicene name from the Greek epikoinos, "possessed in common". An epicene first name is a first name that can be given to both a girl and a boy...

Duality (*feminine noun*) character or state of what is double in itself; coexistence of two elements of different nature...

Told by the breath of the wind, by music, literature or cinema, duality is omnipresent in us and around us. To allow one's duality to express itself freely is to take flight.

***swan (n)***

in practice

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The layout and decoration of the Chantebrise apartment tells the story of the flight of a woman, the liberation and the frank expression of her dual nature, the solar and the lunar. This woman, we will call her swan(n).

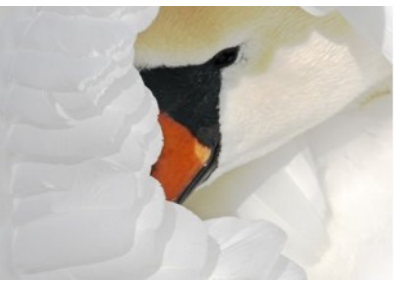


In the solar light, symbolized by the white swan, the "day" part, the family parts: the living room, the kitchen, the terrace, the children's rooms.

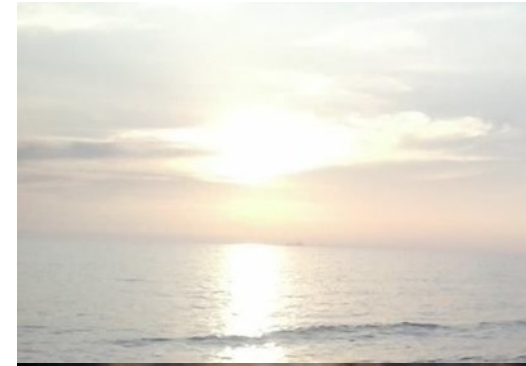
In the lunar clarity, symbolized by the black swan, the "night" part: the "master bedroom", its dressing room and shower room.

The "study", a place of work and reflection, also a guest room, takes on the appearance of a bachelor space in a lunar atmosphere.

The entrance and hallway are an invitation to take flight, a summer solstice, when spring faces summer (in English "spring" also means jump).



Wherever white predominates, black is invited by touches, to attract the eye, emphasize the line, frame the intention.

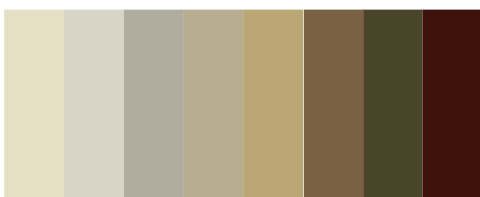
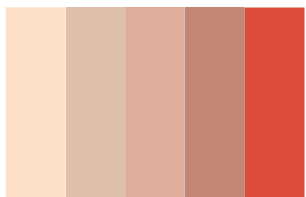
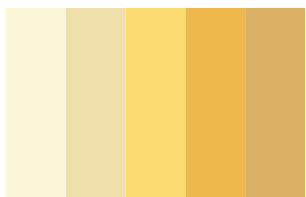
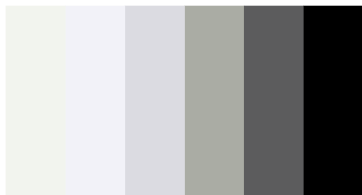


## Chromatic scales

In solar light, white predominates, associated with light and bright tones. Black is present in small touches. The rendering is airy and light.

In lunar clarity, shadows predominate associated with lighter colors. Contrast emphasizes intensity.

Everywhere, the tones are soft rather dumb than garish. Lots of pastel tones. All can be associated even if some marriages will serve the purpose better.



Solar light

Lunar clarity

Spring eclat

The end of the 19th century corseted the woman. From the end of the 2nd World War, like the American actress Louise Brooks, the woman emancipates herself, she shortens her hair and dresses, smokes and even works! The world moves, goes fast and the curves of Art Nouveau at the beginning of the century give way to purer lines where ornamentation is removed, Art Deco.

Avant-garde of the Art Deco style and then of modernism, Le Corbusier is for conformism and simplicity. He advocates an industrial production of quality furniture, both functional, low-cost and for the greatest number. Many Art Deco designers will join the modern movement like Mies van der Rohe designer of the "Barcelona» chair.

These modernist lines will be the frame around which we will tell the story of swan(n).



"Day" part, solar light: the living room

Bleached oak parquet

white window frames

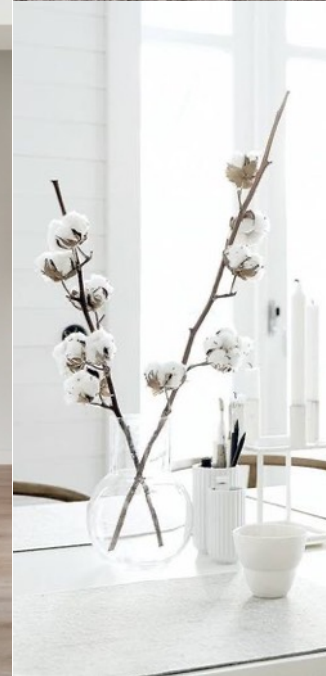
white veils to the ground on very thin black rods

Light or transparent furniture

A few touches of color here and there with cushions, coffee tables, decorative objects.

Dried reeds, green plants

Grey aluminum metal or black powdered very fine metal



Bauhaus legacy Conran Shop  
Daniel Schofield



"Day" part, solar light: the kitchen

"Day" part, solar light: children's rooms  
Girl room



"Day" part, solar light: children's rooms  
Boy room that sails under the sun, lulled by the breath of the wind.





"Night" part, lunar clarity: master bedroom and study



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### Entrance and corridor

Make the entrance and corridor a fireworks display of spring colors. Dare! Paint the walls to protect them from traffic. Choose paint, wallpaper or panoramic décor.



Place a mirror facing the entrance to the living room to reflect the light.









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## **Sources**

Wikipedia Pinterest

Johann Karl August Musäus *Le voile dérobé*

Cecilie Sethil Stuberg Marcel Proust au Lac des cygnes *Allégories sur la beauté et le désir dans Un amour de Swann*