

Art Deco Cocktail Cabinet

By André Fréchet (1875-1973)

Paris

Circa 1930

A palisander cabinet, the curved top above a pair of conforming doors enclosing adjustable shelves, with two pull-out shelves below. The back panel and pull-out trays are mirrored, and the cabinet automatically illuminates when opened.

A further pair of doors below, above a frieze drawer, on an out-curved plinth base. The four stylish keys are original to the cabinet.

Dimensions : 200 cm high, 117.5 cm wide, 66 cm deep

Marks : Unmarked, but with original invoice of purchase from Studio Art Deco in Frankfurt in 1988.



Andre Frechet was born in Chalons-sur-Marne and worked in Paris. An interior designer as well as furniture designer, he also was a professor at Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Nantes in 1911.

He settled in Paris and became director of studies at Ecole Boulle (college of fine arts and crafts and applied arts) – and from 1919-34 he was director of the school. From 1923 he was also editor of the magazine *Mobilier et Decoration*. He also designed for Studium Louvre and from 1935-39 taught at Academie Julian, a private art school in Paris which had been founded in 1867. Some of his students were recruited for Art Deco master Jacques-Emile Ruhlmann's workshop.

Through the 1920s and 1930s Frechet's work was exhibited at the salons of Societe des Artistes Decorateurs and occasionally at Salon d'Automne. With 72 of his students he designed the pavilion of the City of Paris (with Pierre Lehalle Georges Levard) and participated in the pavilion for the atelier of Studium of the Magasins du Louvre (department store design studio) both at the 1925 Paris Exposition International des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modern – the exhibition which many years later launched the term “Art Deco”.

A copy of the original 1988 invoice is available, this was when the cabinet was purchased from Studio Art Deco in Frankfurt, for an amount of DM39000 (about US\$20000 at the time).

We are delighted to be able to present this stylish cabinet, as it is not common to find original French Art Deco furniture in South Africa.

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