

Paris Deco Off from an Insider

By Maria Matis, Former ASID UCLA Ext. President

Summarize your experience at Paris Deco Off

The trip was mostly about exploring Paris and seeing all the amazing new fabrics hitting the market. Deco Off is the fabric-only part of Maison et Objet (MO). The actual trade show is off-site, outside of the city center. The good thing about Deco Off is everything is located within the city and easy to get to. You are invited to more fabric presentations than you could actually attend. They serve you snacks and drinks and you get to see their new collections. I definitely recommend attending the additional events the LA Chapter hosts. They did a tour of Bacarat Mansion, and lecture with a very well-known designer about navigating Paris, and did a Paris Flea Market tour with the Antiques Diva. These special events were highlights of the trip. In between presentations and events, you can go to museums, or explore the antiques district, or shop around Paris. All of the exposure to the very high-end part of the industry were collectively valuable.

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Last year, Maison et Objet was not a scheduled tour. We decided to take a Saturday and explore the trade show. I'm so glad we did. I would highly recommend doing that, if the LA Chapter does not organize something inclusive. You can take a bus from the city center that will take you there and back for free. It is a massive trade show, and you need to be an industry partner, so look into getting your resale permit and business license before you go. You probably can't do the whole trade show in a day, but you can get a good sense of it. It really depends on how much time you want to poke around. They also have a ton of lectures and discussions happening at MO. Last year we heard Rosita Missoni speak about starting Missoni Home, and it was also a big highlight of the trip.

Summary of costs:

Flight costs as of Nov. 2: ~\$450-\$500

Try to book nonstop as there may be delays with winter weather.

Hotel: ~\$150/night (or more cost efficient AirBnBs)

Americans Party in Paris ticket: \$150

This is the only event you need to purchase a ticket to; many other events provide food and drink.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How much free time did you have and what did you do in your free time?

You can decide how much free time you'd like! You are invited to tons of events, and you just decide which ones you want to prioritize. We decided to do about 2 events a day and fill the gaps with museums or walking around.

Did you arrive early or stay late?

We arrived 1 day late (I think left Wed and arrived Thurs morning), and left on the Monday. I'd say look at your class schedule and decide what is best for you personally. I felt I could only miss 1 class.

Were the UCLA Extension instructors aware of the event and excuse your absence?

They were aware, but didn't give any special treatment about missing class. I would say that was the one thing I didn't like about the trip - I was in DC3 and had to miss a class, and truly felt like it messed up my whole quarter. But I think that is a personal issue - how well you deal with missing a class. For me - it kind of throws me off. But I'm so glad I went, and wouldn't take it back.

What is the dress code?

DRESS YOUR BEST. This is an impression of you as a designer, and you as a UCLA student. You never know who you might run into, or who might be able to offer you a job. So dress professional, and as best you can - it's Paris!

What do you wish you knew before you went?

- If you fly Air France and have a connecting flight, there is a high probability that your luggage may get delayed. So pack a nice set of clothes and needed toiletries in your carry on!
- Pack a nice coat. You will be wearing it most of the time.
- Pack comfortable shoes - you are constantly walking around, and in the rain.
- The weather is typically not great during this time. Prepare for rain, and bring warm clothes. Also - I'd highly recommend going with a buddy. It is much easier to navigate the city and the events, and you always have someone to talk to.
- If you are wanting to see furniture and casegoods, plan to go to Maison et Objet - Deco Off is only fabrics.

Want to learn more? Sign up for more information here:

<https://asid UCLA extension.com/paris-design-week>