

**Designer Takes**

The Top TV and Film Set Designs Inspiring Luxury Clients Right Now

Designers report on the hottest set-inspired requests from their clients, from *The Queen's Gambit* to, yes, *The Real Housewives*

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April 15, 2021

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In the pre-pandemic era, [travel](#) inspired design. But, as we racked up our at-home hours, so too did we rack up our TV-binging tallies. This past year, we all became experts in chess, tigers, and all things royal. Beyond that, television and films inspired many new design trends.

Charu Gandhi

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Charu Gandhi, the founder of London-based [Elicyon](#), designs luxurious abodes, from Dubai penthouses to Mayfair apartments. Lately, she noticed a trend among her clients: a request for TV-inspired designs.



Gandhi's top three requests are references to *The Queen's Gambit*, the Hugh Grant- and Nicole Kidman-starring *The Undoing*, and (wait for it...) *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*. Inspired by *The Queen's Gambit*, Gandhi says, "We've seen a lot more requests for patterned wallcoverings, strong geometries, and retro color tones. The pinks and greens of the '60s are proving very popular."

Gandhi repurposed an old telephone table to weave the retro feel throughout the house. The telephone table's new mossy green seat is a stunning nod to the 1960s, yet also provides a practical place to take shoes on and off.

A true believer in wallpaper's storytelling abilities, Gandhi met her clients' request for wallpaper inspired by the set of *The Undoing*. "We recently designed a sumptuous bedroom which was wrapped entirely, including the wardrobes, in a textured silk wall covering; it added a sense of narrative, depth, and richness to the room as in the TV program."





A living space by Charu Gandhi references the hues of *The Queen's Gambit*. Patrick Williamson

And, in a London home, “When designing the dressing room, the client referenced a specific episode of *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*—she loved the character’s dressing room, especially the layout, the way in which the central island was organized and the surrounding joinery.”

Justin Q. Williams

A TV celebrity himself, Justin Williams is happy when a client asks for a TV-inspired design, especially when it’s a show he loves. “I’ve received inquiries from clients who have been inspired by their favorite television shows. One that I distinctly remember—because I watch the show as well—is Robert and Sol’s beautiful Mediterranean-style home from *Grace and Frankie*,” says Williams. He adds, “Their home is the epitome of warmth, sophistication, and style. Equipped with beautiful architectural details ranging from the hand-carved front door, arched doorways, and wood-beamed gable ceilings, it provides the foundation for the furnishings they’ve selected, which are stylish yet comfortable.”

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Justin Williams has drawn on influence from the Netflix comedy *Grace and Frankie* for a recent project.

Manuella Moreira Interiors

Manuella Moreira’s young business executive client who runs a successful global company headquartered in New York requested a home office design inspired by the midcentury *Mad Men* interiors.

“To achieve this, I installed a pinstripe wallpaper on the walls that resembles a tailored suit. The show includes many Eames pieces so I included the iconic [Eames Lounge Chair and Ottoman](#). I also included a midcentury-inspired floor

lamp, black cowhide rug, along with floating walnut shelves.”



A midcentury office by Manuella Moreira evokes a distinctly *Mad Men* mood.

Moreira also designed this man's Connecticut home office in the same style. A perfect Don Draper's quarantine retreat.

Nick Olsen

Nick Olsen's style is profoundly elegant with pops of bold color. Olsen says, "Ten years ago I think nearly every adult I worked with wanted a kitchen from any Nancy Meyers movie."

The filmmaker's movies are surely salves for the soul, and her set designs match. Meyers referred to the *Something's Gotta Give* beachy home as "every woman's dream house." She got that right! Despite being an amalgamation of different homes she and her production designer scouted, the kitchen was based on Meyers's very own kitchen.

Olsen says that now his clients are requesting rooms for their children, "ages 10 to 25, who want an all-white bedroom! I don't know if that stems from TV, or Instagram but...it's too bad. All-white is both boring and impractical."

Amanda Nisbet Design

Formerly of Christie's auction house, Amanda Nisbet knows quality. Her designs are sophisticated and elegant but always energetic and inviting. Nisbet recalls, "I was asked to do a Manhattan family's apartment in the 'spirit' of *Auntie Mame*. The couple had an interesting assortment of art and decorative accessories collected through their travels and inherited. The idea was more is more whimsical fantasy." Working with her free-spirited artsy client, Nisbet relished this project, commenting, "I love when I have clear direction from a client. It's really fun. I tend to be a bold designer, and when someone asks, 'Can you pump it up a little more?'—Yeah, okay!"





A project by Amanda Nisbet references a film favorite, *Auntie Mame*.

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