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Embracing film, rejecting fakes

Yvonne Courtney

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Chez Carrie and Big

Never mind the fashion and the Morocco-based "Abu Dhabi" locations ... it's the interiors or, more specifically, Carrie and Big's new Fifth Avenue apartment that I want to clock, in the new SATC film. How Carrie has interpreted their status as a couple through the apartment's decor will be a fascinating piece of design anthropology. From what I've seen online, the result is a grown-up pad, such as you would expect from the suited and booted Big, with splashes of typical Carrie eccentricity. The living room is dominated by a bold velvet sofa and a coffee table – which is, in fact, a huge tray, that is deep enough to accommodate books displayed vertically. Nifty. I love the quirky blue tiling (from a distance, it looks like the sea) in the fabulously mid-century style kitchen. Their bedroom is more classical, with damask wallpaper (by Cole & Son) and the Hallings Secretary (used as a desk-cum-television stand) – a piece that is lusted over by interior designers for its slanted proportions and chic pale exterior – dark interior contrast. But the scene stealer is bound to be Carrie's wardrobe – she is sharing now – so it's a dark wood finish for him and bright white for her. Says it all, really.



The interior of the pad in the SATC film is bound to make design anthropology. Photo by c.Warner Br / Everett / Rex Features

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"You can't copy something you don't fundamentally understand," explained the great Ross Lovegrove, who pointed out how architects went wrong attempting to imitate the maxim of Le Corbusier. "They should copy the knowledge, not the object," said Abraham Thomas, the curator of design at the V&A Museum. "When things mutate they lose their spirit," Lovegrove continued. "When I look at the copy of my Moroso chair ... it's like looking at an old friend who's had plastic surgery." The conclusion? Now is the time to take risks.

20-20 Vision



Egypt has beaten the UAE in establishing the region's first design festival with +20 Egypt Design. Organised in collaboration with Design Partners (who are behind the successful Zona Tortona event in Milan), it coincides with the country's furniture trade show, Furnex (now until June 7). Located in Cairo's renovated Old Town the district's shops, mosques and museums make a special backdrop for the event, which comprises

a series of installations in three town houses, curated by the Italian designer Paola Navone and a products showcase, featuring some of the best Egyptian design companies alongside international brands. Since the establishment of the London Design Festival in 2003, design festivals have been popping up in cities around the world as governments cotton on to the fact that design and creativity can boost business – particularly vital in today's economic climate, when the financial industry has so badly scuppered things.

Yvonne Courtney is a design writer and consultant, and the co-founder of online magazine designstastic

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