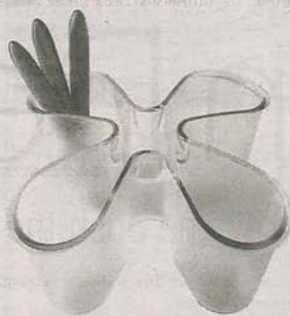


your HOME

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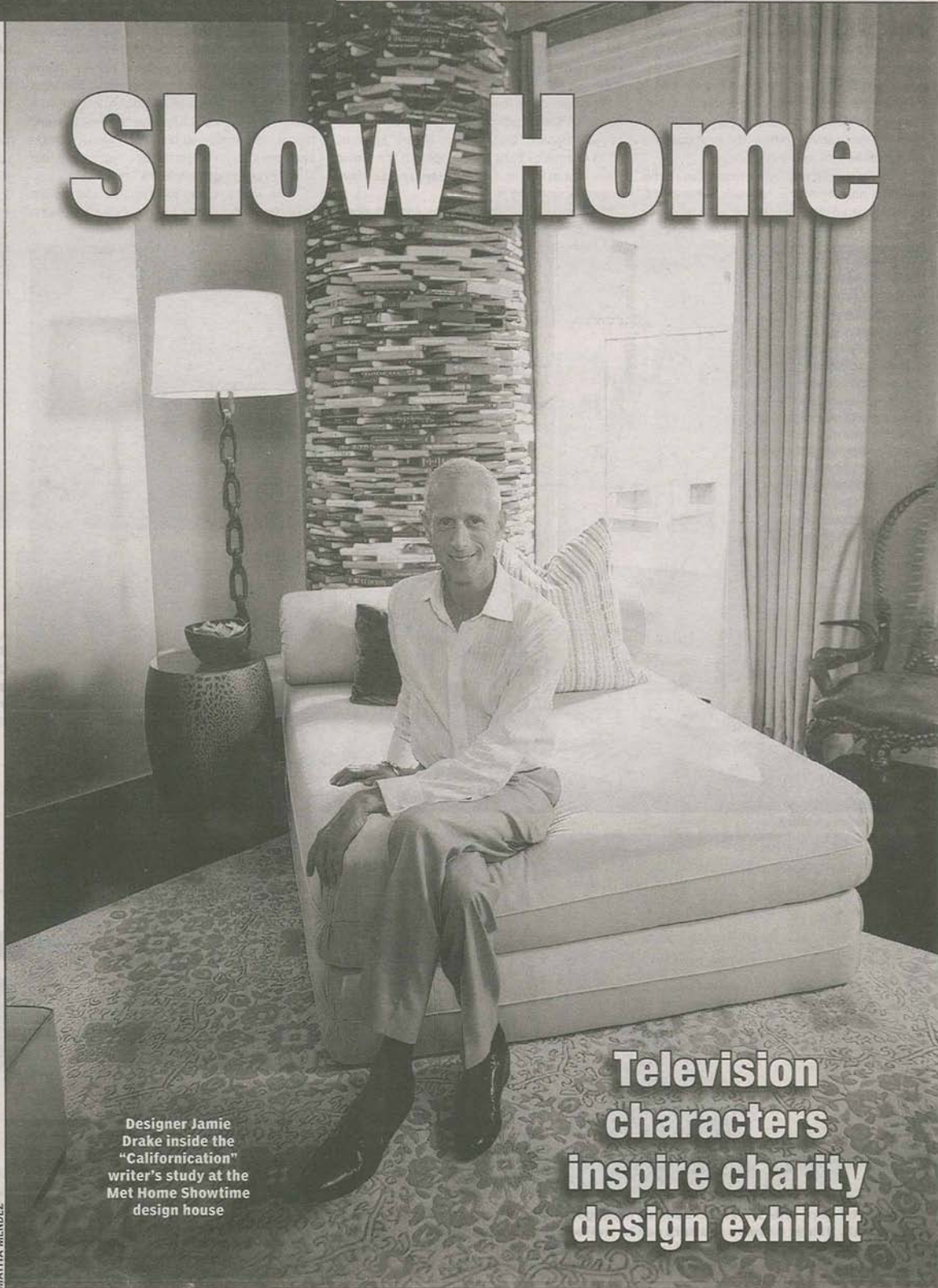
DAILY NEWS

Neat ideas



NYDailyNews.com/realestate

Show Home



Television characters inspire charity design exhibit

Designer Jamie Drake inside the "Californication" writer's study at the Met Home Showtime design house

MAYITA MENDEZ



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- **Toll Brothers** offers luxurious homes with a choice of stunning designs.
- **Pine Aire Estates** brings to Long Island a beautiful collection of homes in a private cul-de-sac setting.
- **Canco Lofts** bucks real estate trends by offering Gold Coast buyers a luxurious loft lifestyle.

Design Details



By Jason Sheftell
Daily News
Real Estate
Correspondent

Metropolitan Home and Showtime push the decorating envelope at Gramercy show house

Moving walls, skeletal doll parts made of resin, more hemp than could clothe a Thai village, a floating screen of mosaic tile, a raspberry lounge and a glorious dining room with 16-foot ceilings that goes deep into the mind of a calculating but conscience-guided serial killer. You wouldn't expect to see those in any designer show house.

But that's exactly what you get when you ask some of New York's top interior designers to play around in the heads of some of the most compelling characters on television today.

In a joint production by Metropolitan Home magazine and Showtime network, the marketing brains came together to give each designer

a room and a character-driven Showtime program and just let them go.

"That was the idea here," says Deborah Burns, senior vice president-publisher of Met Home. "We didn't want any ordinary show house. We're edgy. So is Showtime. We wanted something with multimedia appeal that pushed design to a new level."

The public can look for touches of "Weeds," "Dexter," "Californication," "The Tudors" and the not-yet-released "United States of Tara" in rooms at 23 Gramercy Park South, open to the public from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays from this weekend to Oct. 26.

"We know television and they know design,"

says George Debolt, vice president for media, promotions and partnership marketing. "Was I nervous at first, allowing designers to portray these shows? A little. But the result is amazing. The designers tapped into so much creative genius making rooms about these shows."

Michael Hirtenstein, owner of the 1847 home recently on the market for \$20 million, can keep any room he wants if he decides to pay for it. A design devotee who owns several homes around the world and rented his Time Warner Center apartment to Jay-Z, Hirtenstein gets a kick out of the experimentation in the show house.

"The world is way too serious, and people take themselves way too seriously," he says.

"This house is everything I love about design. It's comfortable, colorful, and it has no ego or attitude."

So what rooms will he keep?

"I love the kitchen and the 'Californication' study and bathroom," he says. "I don't know if I could eat every day in the 'Dexter' dining room, though."

Tours of the home will cost \$25, with all proceeds going to Happy Hearts Fund, supermodel-turned-activist Petra Nemcova's charity dedicated to improving the lives of children who have suffered hardship.

For more information on the house, visit www.methome.com/showtime.



Designer Amy Lau's "Dexter" dining room is a tour de force. Your blood rushes the second you step in. Vinyl ceilings, skulls in liquid casing, red vials as centerpieces, a wine-glass chandelier and an entryway of tiny resin doll parts add theater to the room, doubling as art. "You don't have certain licenses with clients," says Lau. "This is what happens when you let us do our thing."

PHOTOS BY MAYITA MENDEZ



Amy Lau hired Brooklyn artist Chris Klapper to sculpt tiny body parts for the entryway



Vicente Wolf gave "The L Word" a boudoir highlighted by a projector-driven moving wall, Hunter Douglas shutters on the wall and an open bathroom with Ann Sacks gold tiles. "The moving wall has a peaceful and dramatic quality," says Wolf. "The bathroom as part of the bedroom adds romance."



Design duo White Webb placed a paper sculpture of a marijuana plant in the "Weeds" room.



Designer Jamie Drake owns this otherworldly chair he placed in the "Californication" room. With an antique base, the chair is topped by skeletal animal parts.



Above: Graced with over \$700,000 worth of antiques from New York's Turbulence Gallerie, "The Tudors" room by Laura Kirar is part theater, part yesterday and part today. We loved the confession booth: When you sit down, it lights up. The andirons in the fireplace, worth \$150,000, belonged to Queen Elizabeth I.

Below: The tower of books in Drake's "Californication" study is the work of Philadelphia artist Tom Bendtsen. It has no adhesive, so don't touch it when you're there. "Too often, design is about pretty rooms," says Drake. "This house allowed us to design for really complex personalities."



Above: "United States of Tara" is a new program from Steven Spielberg and Diablo Cody about a family who play along with a multipersonality mom (played by Toni Collette). Designer Tori Golub made the closet a dark space with a hidden shed where the character goes to change her personalities. "We all need someplace to get away," says Golub, who used freaky art and various textures to demonstrate the layers of Tara's schizophrenia. The show will likely debut after the new year.

