

Showtime's 'Weeds,' 'Dexter' and 'Californication' inspire show house

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Mendez/News

Designer Amy Lau's 'Dexter' dining room features vinyl ceilings, skulls in liquid casing, red vials as centerpieces, a wine glass chandelier and an entryway of tiny resin doll parts.

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.methomeco.com/showtime.



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Vicente Wolf gave "The L Word" a boudoir highlighted by a projector-driven moving wall, Hurter Douglas shutters on the wall and an open bathroom with Ann Sacks gold tiles.



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Graced with over \$700,000 worth of antiques from New York's Turbulence Galerie, "The Tudors" room by [Laura Kirar](#) features a confession booth in which when you sit down, it lights up.