



# sex and the city



“I guess in certain houses.... fairy tales do come true.” —*Carrie Bradshaw*

Carrie Bradshaw and her BFFs (for the “unhip” and text message–challenged, that’s Best Friends Forever) are back as the iconic HBO hit series *Sex In the City* (New Line, 2008) moves to the big screen this spring. Based on Candace Bushnell’s New York Observer column turned best-selling book on the trials and tribulations of single women in a big city, the television show debuted on HBO in 1998 and ran for six seasons.

For the uninitiated, Carrie (Sarah Jessica Parker) played a sexual anthropologist with a news column on you guessed it,

“*Sex in the City*.” As fodder for her columns, her BFF list included Charlotte (Kristen Davis), a Park Avenue princess, wife to Harry (Evan Handler) and mother to adopted Lily; Miranda, a hard-edged corporate lawyer, wife, mother, and reluctant resident of Brooklyn, and over-the-top seductress and cancer survivor Samantha (Kim Cattrall).

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Carrie is the fashionista, hip, current and trendy.



The film begins where the series left off as we find Carrie back in New York, working as a contributor to Vogue and romantically linked (once again) to Mr. Big. Having found her Prince Charming, Charlotte continues to live happily ever after. Samantha now resides in Malibu with her actor/boyfriend Smith (Jared Lewis), while Miranda and Steve (David Eigenberg) cope with his aging mother (Anne Meara) and married life.

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Sharing the screen with the four main characters is the inimitable cosmopolitan backdrop of Manhattan with interiors recreated on a soundstage in Long Island City's Silvercup Studios. As Sarah Jessica Parker notes, "New York became the fifth woman. She really became this critical character, integral to the story." Fashion and interiors also played an important role as each character's lair was as different as their signature style.

Designed by Jeremy Conway (the show's original production designer) and set decorator Lydia Marks (Devil Wears Prada), the film sets use the original series as a design blueprint for the

Uptown, elegant Charlotte is also sophisticated



Miranda is practical, and  
no nonsense



Samantha is  
so cutting edge



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individual look of each character's apartment.

Bringing Carrie's small yet cozy and instantly recognizable apartment back to life represented the biggest challenge. "This is a set that people know as intimately as their own apartment!" says Marks. The interior was painstakingly recreated down to the last detail; even Carrie's desk, which had been donated to the Smithsonian Museum, was borrowed back for the film. Since there is a time lapse of several years, the interiors went through an update. As Marks explains, "Since Carrie is so involved in fashion, I thought it would be very believable she would have new fabrics around her, so the curtains, upholstery and bed linens are all new for the film." Decorated with dramatic blue walls, floral settees, and mirrored tables, Marks even incorporated Carrie's passion for couture with draperies made of fabric similar to "a great, sculptural wedding dress."

Charlotte's elegant Park Avenue pad retained the original

clean and neutral palette. Marks notes that "She is still in her ivory tower, but the overall feel is very eclectic. The gorgeous chaise in her bedroom is an antique found at New York's Newel Galleries, and she can feel like Cleopatra while reading a novel on it."

The pair also designed a sophisticated yet whimsical nursery for daughter Lily, featuring a toile bed mixed in with mid-century modern toys and furniture from Vitra. "As a decorator, I don't often get the opportunity to mix toile and mid-century modern!" exclaims Marks.

It's often said that home reflects character, and nowhere is this more evident than designing for the silver screen. Perhaps

and good taste while being functional spaces."

*The long awaited Sex in the City arrives in theaters May 30th. My Manolos and I can hardly wait.* ❧

the most practical and comfortably traditional interiors are found in Miranda and Steve's home, reflecting her balancing act as lawyer, mother, and caregiver. Mr. Big's (Chris Noth) apartment is a marked contrast. "We wanted him to have the quintessential sleek, high-end, hard-edged look often associated with Manhattan apartments," Marks explains. The color scheme is neutral; black-and-white art and an intoxicating Manhattan skyline supply the accents.

While the women are no doubt influenced by the latest trends, Conway and Marks looked to a stylesetter from the past for the Vogue offices of Carrie's fierce editor, Enid Frick (Candice Bergen). Interior designer Dorothy Draper, known for her "Modern Baroque" designs in the early 20th century, provided direction for the design duo, as evidenced by the black lacquered credenzas. "Draper's designs managed to be about both glamour