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MEET THE DESIGNERS

Behind the scenes bringing the offbeat characters of Showtime to life with style, wit and drama is a group of trendsetting designers and architects. Their elite clientele spans the globe and is a Who's Who of celebrity and fashion notables.

THE BORGIAS



THE BORGIAS GREAT ROOM

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KEITH BALTIMORE, BALTIMORE DESIGN GROUP

Keith Baltimore is a gifted design jack-of-all trades. His grasp of aesthetics and attention to detail has garnered Baltimore Design Group a distinguished worldwide residential portfolio and the reputation as one of the East Coast's top design firms. Baltimore is equally at home in commercial design creating interiors for the 100,000 square foot headquarters of Arizona Iced Tea, Port Washington's Bongo Bay restaurant (voted "most beautiful restaurant on Long Island by Zagat) and The

Somerset Resort on Grace Bay in the British West Indies. The Baltimore Design Group's 12,000 square foot showroom houses an exclusive and extensive library of furnishings, fabrics, lighting and wallcoverings.

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Papal Posh.

With its cross-embellished Gothic arch, rich hues and luxe fabrics, the Borgias great room imparts the feel of a basilica church in Renaissance Italy but with a modern twist. Against this background is an infusion of clean-lined, modern silhouettes that make the room as stylistically relevant today as it was centuries ago. *Photo Credit: Andrew French*



Sexy Seats.

During business meetings, Pope Rodrigo's associates can have their pick of plush velvety seats that are lined up to mimic rows of pews. They range from low-back button-tufted boudoir chairs to a curvaceous chaise holding court at the back of the room. *Photo Credit: Andrew French*



Artful Respite.

This spectacular column makes art from architecture and is a contemporary spin on Renaissance cathedral paintings as interpreted by modern-day graffiti artists. Flanking it are custom velvet draperies on swing-out rods that add a jester's touch—something the ultra-serious Borgias could have used. *Photo Credit: Andrew French*



A Pope's Perch.

Covered in dramatic Clarence House Etro velvet, this Keith Baltimore-designed high-back chair by Thayer-Coggin beckons Pope Rodrigo to sit awhile as he contemplates his next power play. *Photo Credit: Andrew French*



Cultural Cues.

This wall reveals a great deal about the Borgias. Its saturated black hue creates an air of drama and mystery. The antique chairs lend a religious feel to the room, a necessity for a family whose patriarch was head of the church. Flanking an antique painting of the Annunciation are sconces bearing black tortoise horns that represent fertility and ward off evil, perfect for this pope who was superstitious. *Photo Credit: Andrew French*



Formula in Fashion.

As any Borgia can attest, it's all about the mix when brewing up an effective potion. The same thing is true about their poison den design. It pairs colorful contemporary bottles with classics like this French cloche, Angels Wings sculpture and tabletop curio cabinet. *Photo Credit: Andrew French*



Sculptural Details.

A conventional stainless sink takes on an artful bent when accessorized with a collection of mini architectural buildings and Brizo's Talo arched bronze-finish faucet. *Photo Credit: Andrew French*



Family Lineup.

This richly hued Venetian plastered wall is studded with Borgia portraits leaving no doubt which family is at the center of power in Renaissance Italy.

Photo Credit: Andrew French



Papal Paradox.

Like the Borgias, their contemporary bathroom is a study in contradictions. The cross that's juxtaposed over a view of the city symbolizes the transparency of patriarch Rodrigo's beliefs—he wasn't a religious man yet he was the pope. The church donation box, which should deliver a sense of hope, is filled with thistles. The textural baskets that beckon touch are made of prickly thorns. Even the dramatic Timorous Beasties wallpaper is discomfoting. What looks like a wall of florals is really one of thistles and thorns. *Photo Credit: Andrew French*



Initial rendering of The Borgias Great Room by Keith Baltimore.



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