

# BEST BIG ROOM

Designer Keith Baltimore was shown several rooms throughout the castle, and right before he was about to leave, he was taken to an unfinished attic space. It was going to be left unfinished to show visitors what the castle originally looked like. Baltimore grabbed the space "on the spot," he says. Baltimore was drawn to this unconventional showhouse challenge of designing a space while leaving many of its structural components in their "raw, natural state." The space had concrete floors and ceilings, exposed iron columns and beams, broken windows, and concrete brick walls. Baltimore highlighted the original walls and brick through windows he placed around the room.

Baltimore also wanted to design this attic space as if it were for the original owners of Oheka Castle, banking magnate Otto Kahn and his wife, who built the home in the early 1900s. "Everything stemmed from turn-of-the-century design. I envisioned how they would have designed it, and how they might have used William Morris patterns and colors," he says.

"My design goal was to take the column area and delineate it into three separate seating areas: the men's, the ladies', and a common area with a baby grand piano," he explains. Baltimore used etched-glass panels that were a replica of the original castle's front door, so the visitors would feel they were looking through a window into three separate spaces. He wanted to use the same materials in each area, so he chose heavy, straight-lined furniture on the men's side and lighter, elegantly angled furniture on the ladies' side.

"I imagined Mrs. Kahn lounging on the chaise eating bonbons," he says. He used identical area rugs, whose prints represent the time period in which the Kahns lived, with bronze tile insets around their perimeters. To show that "colors used properly can be both masculine and feminine," Baltimore used cocoa-brown mohair, ice-blue, and pale-yellow silk for all the rooms. —M.C.

KEITH BALTIMORE, THE  
BALTIMORE COLLECTION  
AND DESIGN GROUP LIMITED  
OHEKA CASTLE DESIGNER  
SHOWCASE, COLD SPRINGS  
HILLS, N.Y.

