

Set design research for Act I and Act III

The set is the same for act one and act III, and Act II is the set from behind. These acts are set in a high class living room from 1982. This is actually a double decker set; meaning there's acting going on at the stage's normal height, but there's also a balcony level. The majority of this set design is doors. There are doors everywhere. I'd like them to be kind of representative of the room on the inside, or have a distinctive touch on the outside that makes it obvious what the room on the inside is. For example, I'd like the linen closet door to be slightly slimmer than the rest of the doors, just because normal people don't expect others to climb inside of linen closets. The script cites modern amenities, with many period features.

I assume this means furniture, so I looked for period sofas and found this:



I think the color will stand out on stage as well, and turn this into a focal point, which it needs to be. However, this is the 80s, and it's certainly feasible that comfort would be valued over appearance:





This end table would serve to hold a large vintage telephone, big enough that nothing else can fit on the table; including the ridiculous amounts of sardines involved in this show. This show also requires a television, and in 1982, televisions looked like this:



There's also a need for something to put the TV and extensive number of props on, so I thought a sort of buffet table would be appropriate:



There was also a trend of wall paneling in the victorian time period, as depicted below:



As this is a box set, I think these panels would be a good idea to represent the time period. The staircase is very important in this script, so I think we have two options; we could go really grand and titanic-esque, or we could do something like this:



This staircase is more understated, and would be easier to deal with when it comes to the massive set changes between acts, and is more appropriate for a refurbished mill, as the place is supposed to be.



This picture is here for the window. The script calls for a full length window. There's a sugar glass window involved in this show as well, and it will need the ability to open.



The front door is easy enough to decide upon, especially since victorian era front doors are easily recognizable.



The interior doors require less, and are more difficult to differentiate, so I think this can work for the majority.



The linen closet would ideally just be a skinnier version of the other interior doors, but if that were impossible, this would be another good example.



I even think double doors would be appropriate as an entrance to the bedroom or study, granted there was space.

The phone mentioned before should be something more modern, to counteract all of the victorian that has been used so far.



There should also be modern amenities such as music players, or, because this is the 80s, record players. This would also be something Selsdon could steal later in the script.



I think that a bulky record machine could even replace the buffet table mentioned earlier. or we could go in a different direction and have a smaller one that Selsdon could steal.



In a house this nice, they usually have pictures of themselves everywhere. Be it portraits or otherwise, so I think they'd have portraits of themselves somewhere... I mean, they are tax evaders.





I think this chair would be a good option if we went with the first couch, if the fabric matched a little better. even if we didn't use the chair, the ottoman would be good for the first scene with Mrs. Clackett.



I think a fireplace would be a good option, but I feel like I'm running out of space entirely. There are so many doors involved, there's not much space for anything on the walls.



The balcony should be formed something like this, structurally, at least.



Though not explicitly mentioned in the script, a coat rack could make a very fun addition to the set.