



## Design Notebook



"This was a fantasy space," notes Varney. ABOVE: A seating area. The mirror and lamps are also vintage Draper pieces. He adapted the dishes and glassware from Draper designs. LG televisions, at Abt.com. White satin, red Ultrasuede, sofa fringe, sofa and tufted chairs, Kravet. Low table and rattan chairs from Ficks Reed. ABOVE RIGHT: The entrance. Table and benches, Kravet.



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was never one for the modest gesture. Rococo-style moldings, black-and-white-marble floors and oversize floral prints in vivid hues—all were part of her stylishly dramatic vocabulary.

The *Architectural Digest* Green Room, which Varney likens to "a set from a 20th-Century Fox musical," is crisply theatrical and marked by bold colors and patterns. There are lacquered double doors and a floor stenciled in a checkerboard design. Mottled aubergine walls are offset by a glossy white wainscoting and oversize crown moldings. There's a tufted-black-leather bar and luxurious fabrics: white satin, lipstick-red Ultrasuede and a bright green banana-leaf damask. A Dorothy Draper print adds a vibrant floral note.

While many of the furnishings are reproductions, others are original Draper pieces, such as the baroque sconce and the palm-tree lamps.

The room was to sit just offstage at Hollywood's Kodak Theatre and needed to

accommodate between 25 and 30 people. Measuring approximately 40 by 20 feet, it was more or less the size of a New York City living room.

But most living rooms have things like walls, a ceiling, electrical outlets. The green room had to be constructed in its entirety at the ABC television studios before it was dismantled and rebuilt at the Kodak.

It took the set builders about four days to create the bones of the space, and then the carpentry, electrical, painting and drapery departments performed their duties. The move to the Kodak proved a bit

more complicated. The room was a foot and a half over the fire exit doors and had to be tweaked to fit. In the end, the various departments worked feverishly to pull the room together on time.

By all accounts, the green room was an enormous success, and Varney is pleased that he can bring back glamour to interior design. "We live in a beige-and-gray world. We need a sparkle, a way to make people smile again. That's what it's all about." □

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ABOVE: Varney. LEFT: The bar was inspired by a Draper design. Lamps, banquette, slipper chair and leather on bar, Kravet. Carleton Varney by the Yard floral fabric; Carleton V green silk.