

JOHNNY GREY STUDIOS

REDEFINING KITCHEN DESIGN
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THE METROPOLITAN HOME SHOWTIME KITCHEN

Dark surprises lurk in Johnny Grey's killer kitchen for Dexter

New York, NY – His typical client might not be a serial killer, but British designer Johnny Grey will unveil a kitchen for Dexter as part of the Metropolitan Home Showtime House on September 9, 2008.

Revolving around the murderer-cum-vigilante Dexter Morgan, played by actor Michael C. Hall, the Showtime Network crime drama serves as inspiration for Grey's kitchen. Notable details include cellular blood frieze, flesh-eating plants and labware doubling as kitchen appliances.

For Grey, designing a kitchen for Dexter has turned out to be a surprisingly painless – and actually quite enjoyable – experience. “Who would have guessed that a kitchen for a serial killer would cause so much mirth? It's because it is such an absurd idea. Imagine if we had been asked to do this by Dexter; we might have ended up on the slab if we got the design wrong!” says Grey.

“Using an external device – someone or something that is an object of humor, derision or intrigue – is a perfect method for unlocking creativity. I think comedy, whether white, black or tragic, frees up the brain and allows you to introduce something fresh, new or bizarre.”

Grey is among the 11 international designers invited by Metropolitan Home Magazine and Showtime Networks to transform a 19th century townhouse in Gramercy Park into a home for characters in six Showtime original series: *Dexter™*, *Californication*, *The L Word®*, *The Tudors*, *United States of Tara* and *Weeds*.

Just as Dexter questions the status quo and notions of right or wrong, Grey challenges conventional kitchen architecture. The contrasts of understatement and over-the-top gestures in the kitchen mirror the show's sensibility – and Dexter's personality.

“Designing on a theme inspires playful, light- and dark-hearted fantasies. We have enjoyed being able to exercise our imaginations. It's like being children again, thinking wicked thoughts, which can't be expressed without whispering,” says Grey.

The kitchen is based on Modern Miami architecture, with cinematic use of glass, acute angles and a transparent flow. Materials include natural woods such as aspen, walnut, bogged oak, a “slashed” grain Zebra maple and bloodwood. It also features tropical plants, as well as a custom rug made from the sonar image of Dexter's watery burial ground.

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Using lyrical and outlandish forms and a tropical color palette, Grey captures the Miami aesthetic with South Beach-inspired kitchen furniture, while incorporating his own design philosophy. His core notions focus on unfitted kitchen ergonomics, soft geometry, sociability in the kitchen, the blurring of indoor and outdoor environments and hard-wired elements of comfort.

Grey's kitchen, like Dexter, is sympathetic and whimsical, while concealing the dark side to be discovered in a cat-and-mouse game. Beneath the surface lurks a world of hidden compartments, meticulously abstracted blood dots, suspense and menace amidst beauty and order. "We haven't hidden any bodies, but just wait until you see what's in the fridge," says Grey.

The kitchen includes elements created by several contemporary artists: Lucy Turner, Dennis Schrader, Paul Lange, Liora Manne, Anna Shea and Eduardo Garza. Its opening marks the official launch of Johnny Grey USA, the American subsidiary of Johnny Grey Studios, based in Hampshire, England.

About Johnny Grey Studios

Johnny Grey is a kitchen designer based in Hampshire, England who has been heralded as "The World's Best Kitchen Designer" by Metropolitan Home Magazine (New York) and the "Kitchen Designer's Designer" by Homes & Gardens (London). He is also the author of three books: *The Art of Kitchen Design* (1994), *The Hard Working House: The Kitchen Work Book* (1997) and *Kitchen Culture* (2004). Johnny Grey Studios is a network of designers across the US and UK who subscribe to Grey's approach to kitchen design. For more information, see www.johnnygrey.com.

About the Showtime Showcase House

The Showtime Showcase House will be open to the public September 13-October 26 at 23 Gramercy Park South in New York. For more information, see www.pointclickhome.com/showtime.

Contact

For more information or to arrange an interview with Johnny Grey, contact press@johnnygrey.com. A fact sheet with Dexter kitchen design details and images are also available upon request.