

Esquire

Esquire Gets a Penthouse

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photo credit: Zach DeSart

This fall, we took an already remarkable apartment — a 9,000-square-foot penthouse in the extravagant new SoHo Mews building in lower Manhattan — enlisted the help of world-renowned designers and luxury brands, and turned it into the ultimate living space: Esquire SoHo. Along with a 3,000-square-foot wraparound terrace, our penthouse had eight flat-screen TVs, two hot tubs, even crystal Q-tip holders in the bathrooms. All of which, sadly, had to be returned. But not before we threw parties, raised some money for charity, and made a few questionable jokes over the pool table.



Pool Table

Designed by Obscura Digital

(1) One of two such tables in the world. The other is in a new high-roller suite at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.

(2) The image on the table comes from Obscura's CueLight, a full-HD projector with motion sensors that track anything below them — a ball, a hand, the beer you didn't realize would stain a \$45,000 pool table — to reveal portions of a hidden picture on the felt (which, for us, was a Sexiest Woman Alive or a Varga girl).

(3) Of those who have pre-ordered a CueLight, a surprising number are "businessmen" from the former Soviet Union.



The Poker Room

Designed by Larry Laslo for Pokerstars

(1) A \$60,000 Baccarat-crystal chandelier designed by Philippe Starck. Soon after it arrived, we had to bring in a black replacement so the original reportedly could go to the home of the private client who bought it — and so the goth kids wouldn't feel out of place.

(2) The poker table (which Laslo designed) is from EGM Green, the same company that made the table given to the 2008 World Series of Poker winner.

(3) On the opposite wall there are three 32-inch LG TVs that loop gambling scenes from classic movies.

(4) None of these movies involve disembodied hands.



Home Recording Studio

Designed by Denise Kuriger for Diesel Only the Brave

(1) To absorb sound, the floors are lined with cork, and the carpet and wall upholstery are made of wool.

(2) The Blue Microphones Bottle, a \$10,000 professional-grade microphone used by ?uestlove and Lil Wayne.

(3) The GothRod ChopperChair, a piece of art made of leather and motorcycle parts that Kuriger chose because it reminded her of the 1980s Maxell ad in which a seated man gets blown away by music.

(4) The guitar Kevin Bacon played when he and his brother decided to record an impromptu track.



The Lounge

Designed by Luke Raymond for Heineken

(1) Raymond chose low couches because he wanted the furniture to be something people could sink into after a hard day.

(2) The left side of the room was supposed to be a closet. Instead, Raymond took the door off and used the space to set up minikegs.

(3) Although they look like mirrors, these are actually sheets of one-way security glass, behind which are three 70-inch LCD TVs.

(4) Using a system designed specifically for this room by Obscura, the TVs display kaleidoscopic images through the mirrors that react to any sound in the room, whether it's music, laughter, or the Bacon boys congratulating each other on the killer track they just recorded in the home studio.



The Master Bedroom

Designed by Kerry Delrose for Hugo Boss

(1) the adjoining bathroom (which attaches to the walk-in closet) has an all-glass shower, a freestanding tub, and the same floor-to-ceiling view of Manhattan as the master bedroom (N.B., current New York state law does not consider someone to be a Peeping Tom unless he records video of the victim).

(2) Along with a lightning rod, the top of the Empire State Building has a mooring mast for blimps. It's been used only once, for three minutes.

(3) Tufted leather headboard and canopy.

(4) Hand-painted silk wallpaper.

(5) The \$650 Skeleton Chair from Michael Aram that's almost exactly as comfortable as it is attractive.



The Kitchen

Designed by Kristen McGinnis for Lufthansa

(1) McGinnis painted the ceiling a dark color to make it more distinct from the rest of the apartment, and she added images — Chinese mountains and Indian jars — to the cabinets to make the small room feel more transportive. Although that probably only works for people who think they're on vacation just by looking at a postcard.

(2) A Forrest Myers sculpture, which, contrary to frequent suggestion, is not made to hold wine.

(3) *Insect 47*, a mixed-media sculpture by Thierry Despont, the architect who designed Bill Gates's house.

(4) Made of a series of gas-filled tubes that light up to show the time, the nearly twenty-pound Nixie Desk Clock costs approximately \$140 a pound.

(5) Twelve cashews contain 50mg of magnesium, which Dr. Mehmet Oz recommends you consume 400mg of each day to lower blood pressure and reduce arrhythmia.