

Sets and the City

We couldn't help but wonder about *The Carrie Diaries*' décor

To outfit rooms for a show set in 1984 whose fan base wasn't born until 1990, Christina Tonkin, set decorator for *The Carrie Diaries*, did a lot of shopping with a whole lot of creative license. The CW's cult-hit series about the teenage life of *Sex and the City*'s Carrie Bradshaw "certainly pays homage to the '80s," says Tonkin, who also worked on *SATC* for almost six years, "but our goal was always 'aspirational' authenticity." Hence, from Carrie's Connecticut childhood home to the New York spaces she'd soon inhabit, an interior coolness prevails that would stand any style-seeker's time test. — *Barbara Haigh*

THE SHOE FITS

Teenage Carrie's suburban house is littered with clues to the woman she'll become someday. The family area's classic Connecticut country look comes courtesy of local thrift and antique stores. The **ceramic-based lamp** ❶ on her bedside table is the same one that sat on Sarah Jessica Parker's *SATC* apartment desk for six seasons, purchased by Tonkin at an end-of-show auction for her private collection. The curly-corded classic rotary phone is an exact *SATC* replica, as is the upholstered, wooden-armed desk chair. As Tonkin imagines it, both lamp and chair once belonged to Carrie's mom, who has recently passed away. "We wanted to imply that Carrie's kept them with her throughout the years," say Tonkin. The **three funky paintings** ❷ on the wall above her desk provide the clearest link between Carrie's past and future selves and were created for the show by artist Claudia Lynch. To Tonkin, they were probably gifts from Carrie's mother: "Maybe she was given one a year for a birthday or some other special occasion."



THE CARRIE DIARIES

airs Fridays at 8 p.m. ET/PT on The CW.



BITE THE BIG APPLE

When Carrie scores an internship with *Interview* magazine, “her love affair with New York begins,” says Tonkin. Style editor Larissa Loughton’s office boasts pleat-seated **Platner chairs** 3 and a metallic pony-fur rug. Brass deer sculptures strategically flank an adjacent hallway’s massive **Calvin Klein portrait** 4. Throughout the offices, framed covers mingle with too-quirky-to-categorize artworks like a glass-caged jockey suit hanging above a **carved-in-half Biedermeier sofa** 5, replete with plastic arm.

“Amy Harris, our executive producer, told us to really have fun here.”

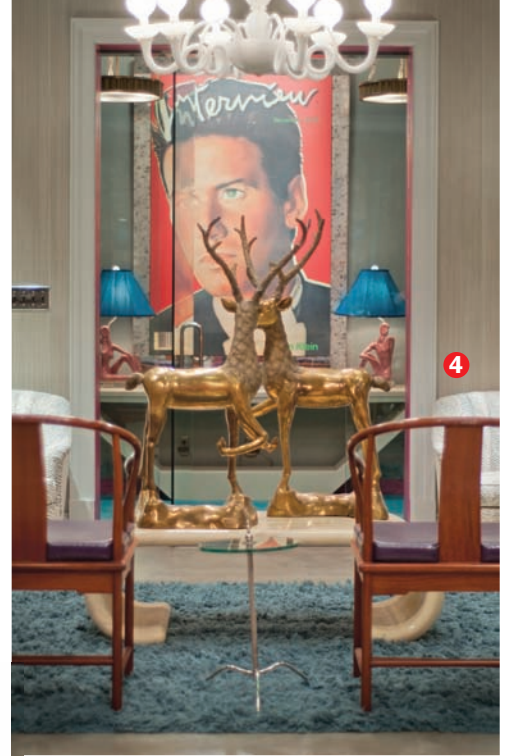
Larissa (Freema Agyeman)



NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

“Larissa is a gypsy,” says Tonkin, who filled Loughton’s high-ceilinged, brick-walled loft—a timeless hallmark of city life—as though it belonged to a seasoned traveler. Parisian cut-crystal wine glasses, a dramatic sculpture from Ghana and ethnic textiles pay homage to Larissa’s heritage, because she is supposed to be descended from African royalty. “The thinking is that she took the loft over from a wealthy older boyfriend and is slowly bringing in her own things”—the

mismatched metal chairs 6 surrounding her worktable are a prime example, says Tonkin. “Larissa also likes to take souvenirs from photo shoots,” she adds. When Carrie sets up shop in the downtown apartment after her boss goes to Japan, her romance with Manhattan gets real.



PARTY GIRL

MEET TEENAGE SAMANTHA JONES!

Samantha Jones’ Blahniks are hard shoes to fill, especially since the *Sex and the City* sexpot has tossed them off more often than a pole dancer. But Lindsey Gort, 29, is the perfect pick to play the younger Samantha in *The Carrie Diaries* on The CW. After auditioning three times, Gort—who was in the film *2 Guns* and also sings with a band— nabbed the role of the ever-vixenish Samantha and scores with it. And apparently it’s not the body parts you’re thinking about that really count. As Kim Cattrall tweeted Gort: “The key to [Samantha] is her heart.”

— Michael Musto



Lindsey Gort