

Carrie's \$3 Million Love Nest

Talk about getting seduced in style! HBO's *Sex and the City* stylists tell *Us* how they created the luxe loft of Carrie's "lover," Aleksandr Petrovsky

BY CAROLINE SCHAEFER

SHE HAS BEEN WOODED IN A COUNTRY CABIN (remember Aidan?), in the back of a limo (Big's vehicle of choice) and even on a motorcycle (Jack, we hardly knew you!). But until now, Carrie Bradshaw — played by Sarah Jessica Parker, 38 — hasn't encountered anything quite as, well, grown-up as artist Aleksandr Petrovsky (Mikhail Baryshnikov, 55) ... or his sprawling home. All the better to romance her with! "We envisioned his place as the entire top floor of a building in New York City's SoHo neighborhood," *Sex* production designer Jeremy Conway tells *Us* of the 3,500-square-foot, one-bedroom loft that took about six weeks to build on a New York soundstage. "I imagine it would cost \$3 million if it were on the market in Manhattan." Styled with international, extravagant appointments, "it's perfect for a Renaissance man," says *Sex* set decorator Christina Tonkin. "Even though Carrie is fabulous, she's never experienced fabulous like this."

"He's a gourmet, so of course he has a beautiful coffee maker," Tonkin says of Aleksandr's FrancisFrancis! espresso-cappuccino machine (\$600; neimanmarcus.com).

Chef Aleks makes Carrie pancakes on this range from Viking (\$2,900; vikingrange.com for locations).

"Aleks likes to entertain, and this table has leaves to expand it, so it works for dinner parties," says Tonkin, who found the Hawthorne Extension table (\$1,800; 800-967-6696) at Crate & Barrel.



"Petrovsky is something that Carrie has never encountered before," says Tonkin. "He's not afraid of anything. He's mature. He's well-rounded."



Bedroom

Lush bedding (including a sable throw) by Anichini covers the antique brass bed.

"Petrovsky is an artist and an intellectual, so we chose vintage books on art, literature and music," Tonkin says.

"The whole idea was to have this boudoir, very romantic, old-world feel," says Tonkin, who found individual leather panels, each tooled with silver and gold leaves, to embellish the walls behind Aleksandr's bed.



First designed by Norman Cherner in 1958, this style of walnut chair "is a piece of art itself, so this set suits Aleks perfectly," says Tonkin. (Find it at chernerchair.com.)

Kitchen

"We wanted to have a huge white kitchen with everything jet-black set into the wall," says Conway of the minimalist look. Adds Tonkin, "The only splash of color came from the centerpiece. We were going to put green apples in the steel bowl, but that seemed so ordinary. For Aleks, we chose pears."

Living Room



A rare Fortuny light fixture. (For info, call 212-753-7153.)

Baryshnikov lent art from his personal collection to decorate Aleks's pad.

The window view is of SoHo at the corner of Broadway and Grand Street, facing north.

Nothing like Hermes to make Carrie drool. The mohair throw was borrowed from the store's Madison Avenue window.

Aleks's living room is filled with pieces that reflect his worldly style: A Steinway piano (Baryshnikov actually plays for the crew), tons of antiques (says Tonkin, "The settee is from ABC Carpet & Home's Bronx warehouse"), a ming aralia tree ("It's slightly temperamental," she adds) and two Tibetan rugs.