

film in the news

Set Decorator: KC Fox
Production Designer: Missy Stewart
MGM



Legally Blonde 2

Environments give us clues to the personality of their inhabitants before we ever meet them. A superb example of set decoration setting the tone for characters is the *Delta Nu sorority apartment* of this summer's hit LEGALLY BLONDE 2-RED, WHITE AND BLONDE. Set Decorator KC Fox SDSA and Production Designer Missy Stewart combined contemporary design elements and a cool pastel palette to create such a strong visual statement that ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST chose to place it on the cover of their July issue. [See *In the News*, p 30.]

SET DECOR visited Fox shortly after her work appeared both on screen and in print. She explained the concept behind the design and decoration of sets defining main character *Elle Woods*.

"The *Delta Nu apartment* was actually less of *Elle's* personal style and more of the impersonality of a very upscale sorority time-share, one of several that *Delta Nu* operates. We wanted the viewer to sense this immediately. The sorority logos were used as decorative motifs, and in the entry, freelance artist Jim Dultz and I created framed posters as an artful hint of the other sorority locales. We wanted to create an environment that *Elle* looked good in, but was not spot-on 'hers'—as the storyline dictated."

She continued, "Missy designed a very spatial floor plan with few walls, instead dividing the space with large sliding steel screens on which a series of geometric shapes in frosted colors were mounted. It is a muted, but playful environment with a strong sense of feminine





Red, White and Blonde

sensibilities and an eclectic, mod feel. We also added a bit of reinvented sixties: the shapes of the two Jacobsen swan chairs, from **Modernica**, and the low curved couch sitting on the Dreamweavers rug set the tone."

Fox shared some professional tricks, "Using a lot of glass and plexi allowed us to make the most of the large room. The clear dining room chairs by Philippe Starck and the lavender Le Marie chairs brought life to the large back wall, without blocking it. Chris Wilson, of **Contemporary Art Resources**, created a striking grid study of lavender that added just the right amount of color. We kept the major palette in off whites and pale grays. Color was brought in gradually, primarily in art, glass and wonderful florals by **Sandy Rose**."

Glimpses of *Elle's Boston apartment* reveal her own sense of style. PD Missy Stewart chose green, pink and orange for the walls and, according to Fox, "gave us carte blanche for whimsy". As a nod to late 50's glamour, they played up the white trim and vintage white furniture. The chairs were reupholstered in broad stripes of silk. "In the living room, the furniture was straight-lined and modern, but with outrageous color. The art really spoke volumes about her fun spirit and bold sense of style. Some pieces were custom made by Chris Wilson and Jim Dultz; many were rented at **Art Pic** and **Art A Go Go**; and Andy Smith, the very talented **Local 44** draper, made a number of custom rugs. Decorating **LEGALLY BLONDE 2-RED, WHITE AND BLONDE** was a fun foray into a colorful personality." ■



A Boston apartment (this page) reflects the Elle Woods character established in the first film. "Habel Construction, in New York, who has a contemporary line in felt pillows and fabrics, was fabulous about printing up the material for the bedspread," Fox shares. "Animal portraitist Roger Henry painted the magical Bruiser painting. Mardine Davis had wonderful small paintings of purses and shoes." The pastel mod of the Delta Nu condo (opposite page) gives an immediate insight into the different world Elle will meet in Washington.

Photos by Missy Stewart