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Dream Space: Where a Top TV Producer Creates

Where Ryan Murphy, Producer of Shows From "Glee" to "American Horror Story" Creates

By

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TV PRODUCER RYAN MURPHY'S AIRY SPACE



Producer Ryan Murphy brought in interior designer Cliff Fong to turn his new office into a space that Mr. Fong describes as offering "the bandwidth for creativity." JESSICA SAMPLE FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Los Angeles

Ryan Murphy—producer of TV shows "Glee," "American Horror Story," "The New Normal" and "Nip/Tuck"—chose his offices for the view from a long row of windows that reveals the skyline above the rooftops of Paramount Studios.

"As soon as I saw the windows, I wanted it," says Mr. Murphy, who is from Indiana and liked the view of palm trees. The loft space was once a studio for painting sets (back when sets were painted). It is reached by climbing a steep staircase around the corner from one of the Paramount canteens. It was being turned into accounting offices a few years ago "when I swooped," says Mr. Murphy.

He brought in interior designer Cliff Fong to turn it into a space that Mr. Fong describes as offering "the bandwidth for creativity."

That involved flooring of wood reclaimed from Paramount sets, and a long table that is used for production planning sessions in a long, white-walled room.

The table and colors inspired the sets for "American Horror Story." Mr. Murphy showed them to the show's production designer. The look is slightly shabby—intentionally so.

"The only thing about Cliff is he hates and despises shiny things," says Mr. Murphy, who also had Mr. Fong design his home décor.

"I like perfectly imperfect," says Mr. Fong, who also runs a design boutique on Melrose Avenue called Galerie Half.

They declined to say how much Mr. Murphy spent on the offices. "He never gives me a budget," says Mr. Fong. "I spend responsibly."

Since moving into the space in 2010, Mr. Murphy cast his television shows and films on a rugged leather couch, literally a casting couch.

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