

The Crown

Season 6

DESIGN STATEMENT

Martin Childs

The Crown has reached the 21st Century.

Let's start with some statistics. There are more than 600 sets in the new series, over 450 of them new, far outnumbering the (relatively) few repeats.

The greatest challenge? St George's Chapel, Windsor.

Of all the cathedral locations within our grasp, York Minster best suited our needs. What it had was scale. What it lacked were two important things: the first was any resemblance to the altar end of St George's Chapel; the second was just one day to transform it, with two more to shoot (between their Easter services and a visit from The King.) Our construction team built and painted a fifty-foot wide, sixteen-foot high replica of St George's Chapel in the Elstree workshop, pulled it apart, drove it 200 miles up the A1, and reassembled it in a day, to look right in a building that had taken 250 years to complete.

In the other nine episodes the story has moved on from an autumnal Season 5 to the last days of Diana – bright sunshine, the flash of paparazzi, and pursuit. The 'South of France' was created in Spain, 'Paris' in London, Elstree Studios, Barcelona and, all too briefly, Paris itself. 'Balmoral' (Scotland, Hertfordshire and Elstree Studios) expanded as never before to cater for its part in the aftermath of Diana's accident. For the last days of Margaret we go to 'Mustique' (Spain and Elstree Studios) and jump back in time to 'London' in 1945 (Hull, Elstree Studios and London itself.)

As ever, the brief was there in the script. This unfeasibly rich world needs to look grandly, indomitably, majestically right and, for its characters, inescapable. In addition, with a show that will have taken place in 2,448 different sets, we had to find ways to distinguish what's new when designing the final 600 or so, with an aim to realise and (sometimes) surprise, but never distract.

With that number of changing environments, directors (there were five) seldom had to share sets. When they did it was in the more slowly changing world of the establishment. With the world outside we had licence to move with the times and with the 21st Century came a new casualness and that surprisingly tricky period to get right, the recent past.

After nearly two-and-a-half thousand ways of decorating a set, Season 6 has the first we've ever painted black, the last colour on my *Crown* swatch: the private study of Mohammed Al Fayed, a man in grief. And, at last, there's a location that's (whisper it) strictly ten years too new: I no longer have to future-proof for the next season – *The Crown* is done.



Balmoral Castle, 1997

THE
CROWN



Bedroom, Kensington Palace, Margaret home from Mustique
Stage 6 Elstree Studios MC June '22



Muir's photographic studio, Ballater
Oundle, Northamptonshire



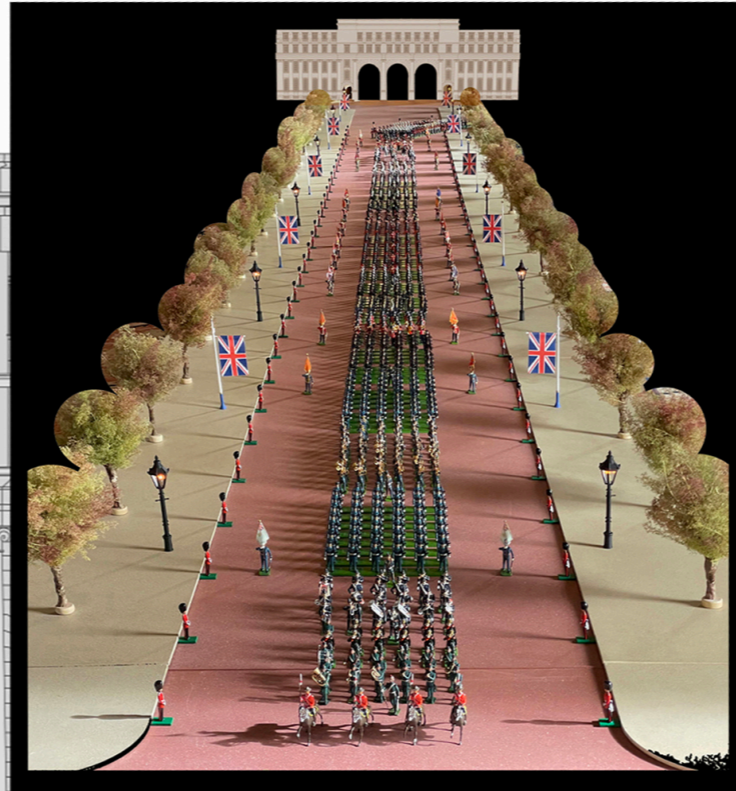
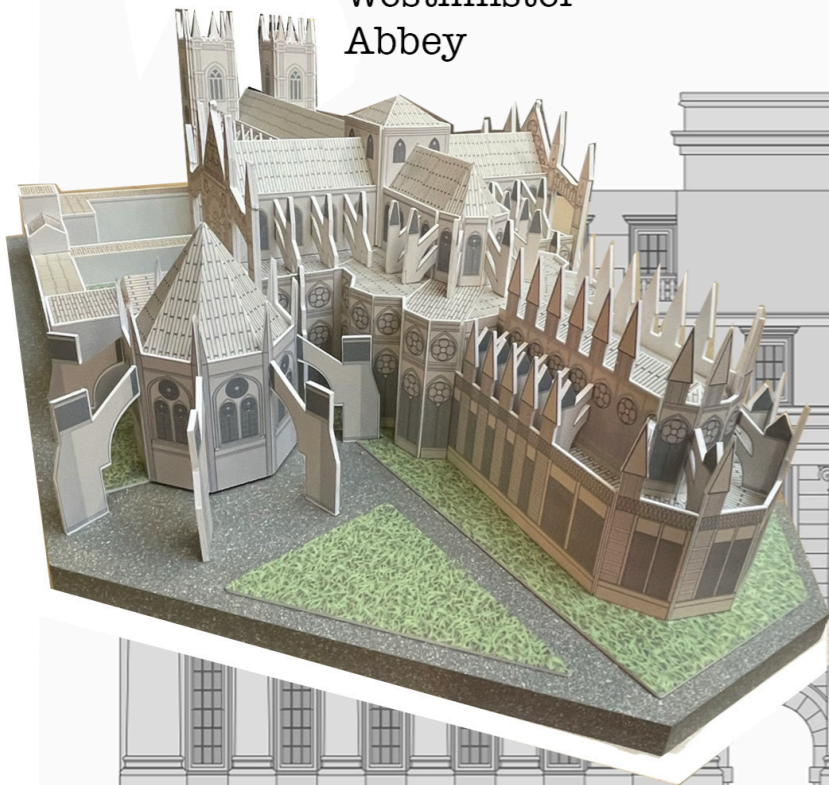
Ritz Paris, rear entrance,
City of London MC June '22



Kensington Palace gates
Diana returns home MC 28.10.21

THE
CROWN

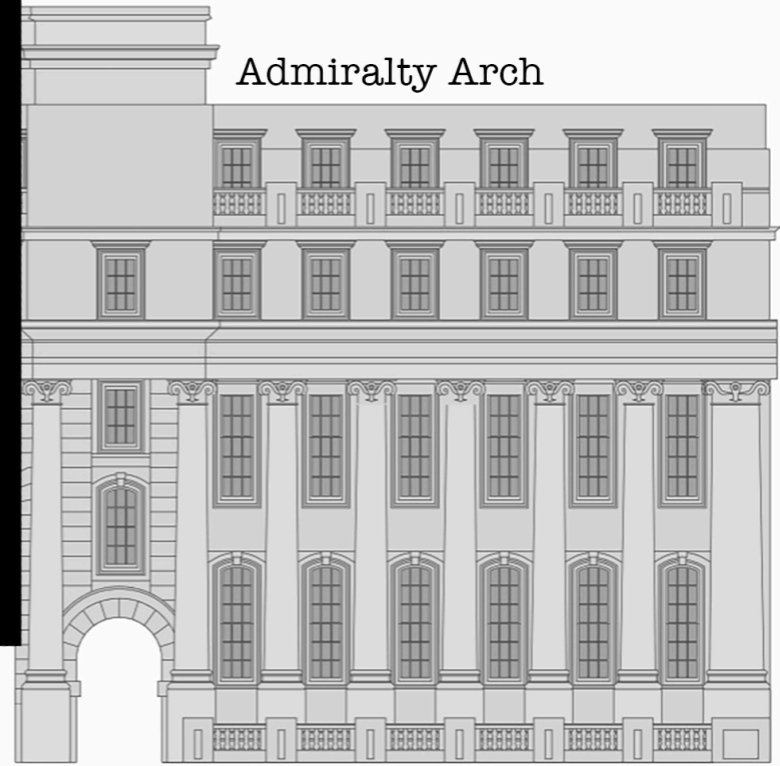
Westminster Abbey



The Mall

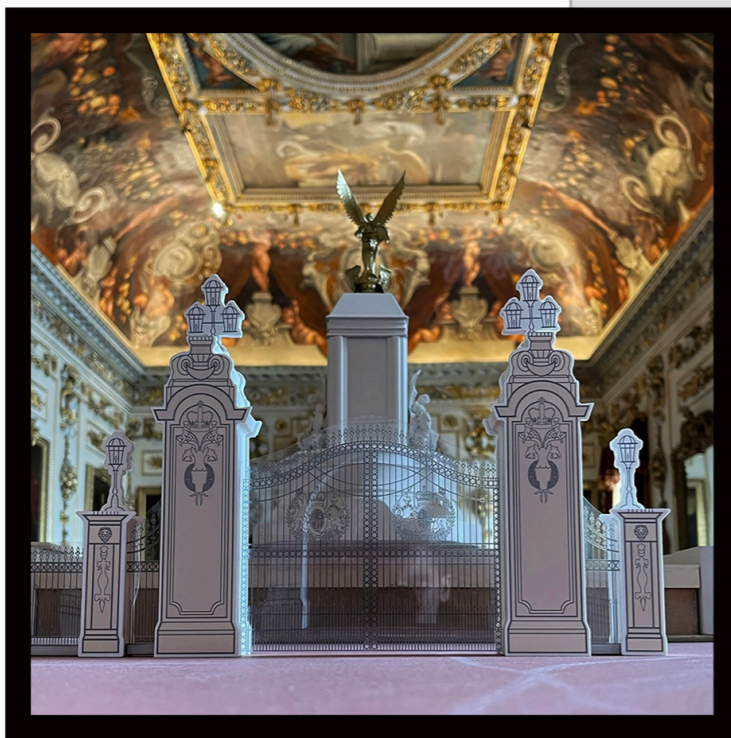
THE CROWN

Admiralty Arch

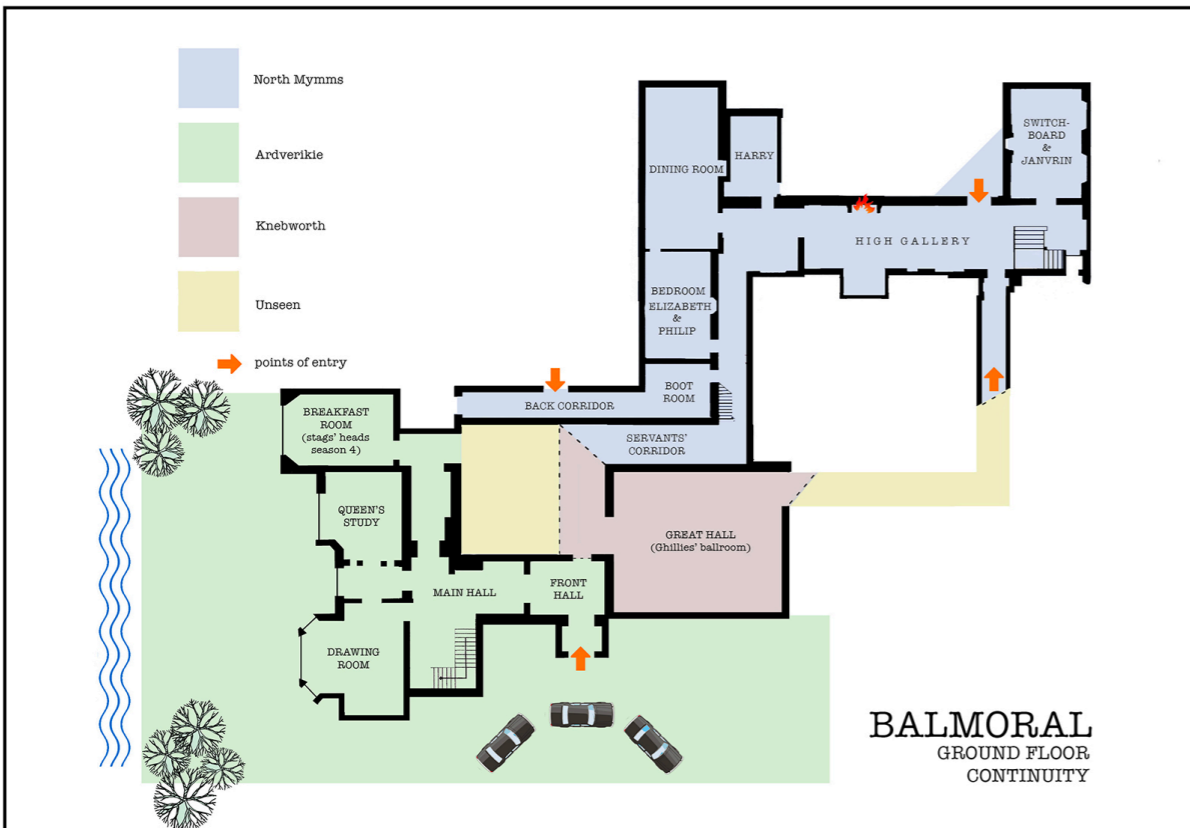
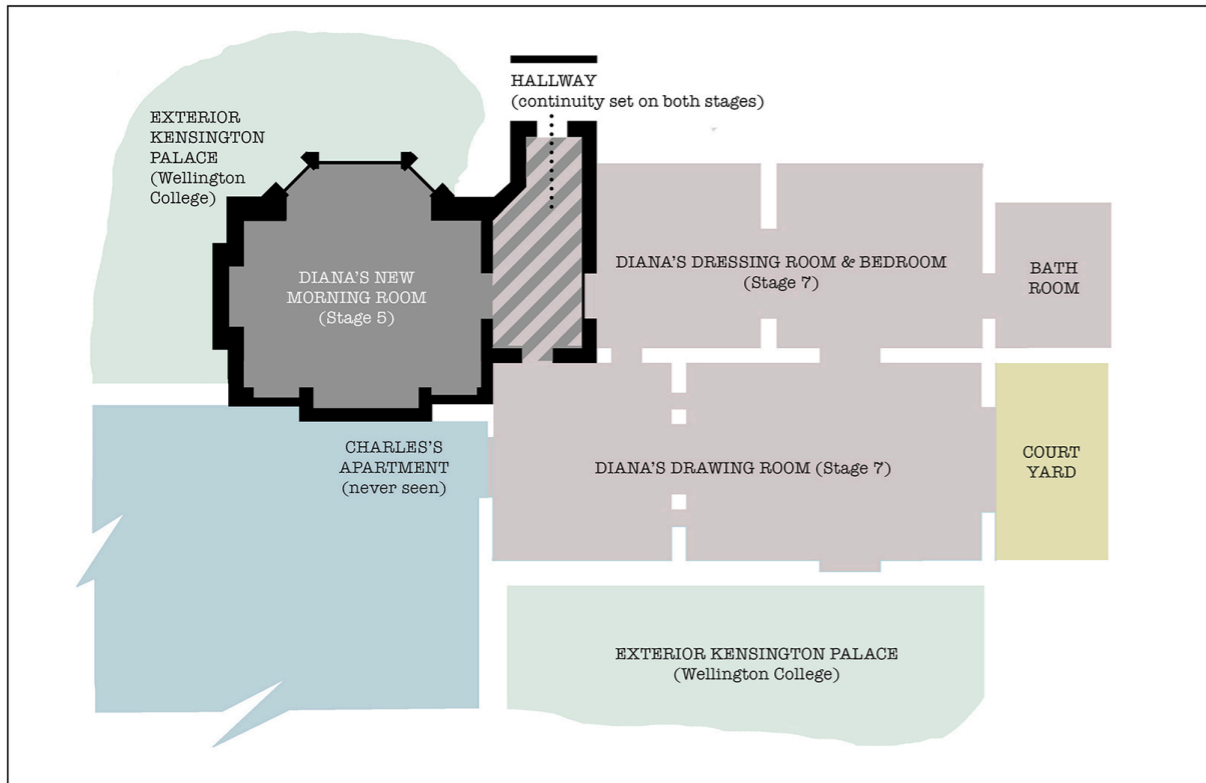


M O D E L O F W E S T M I N S T E R

Buckingham Palace



The Mall & Buckingham Palace

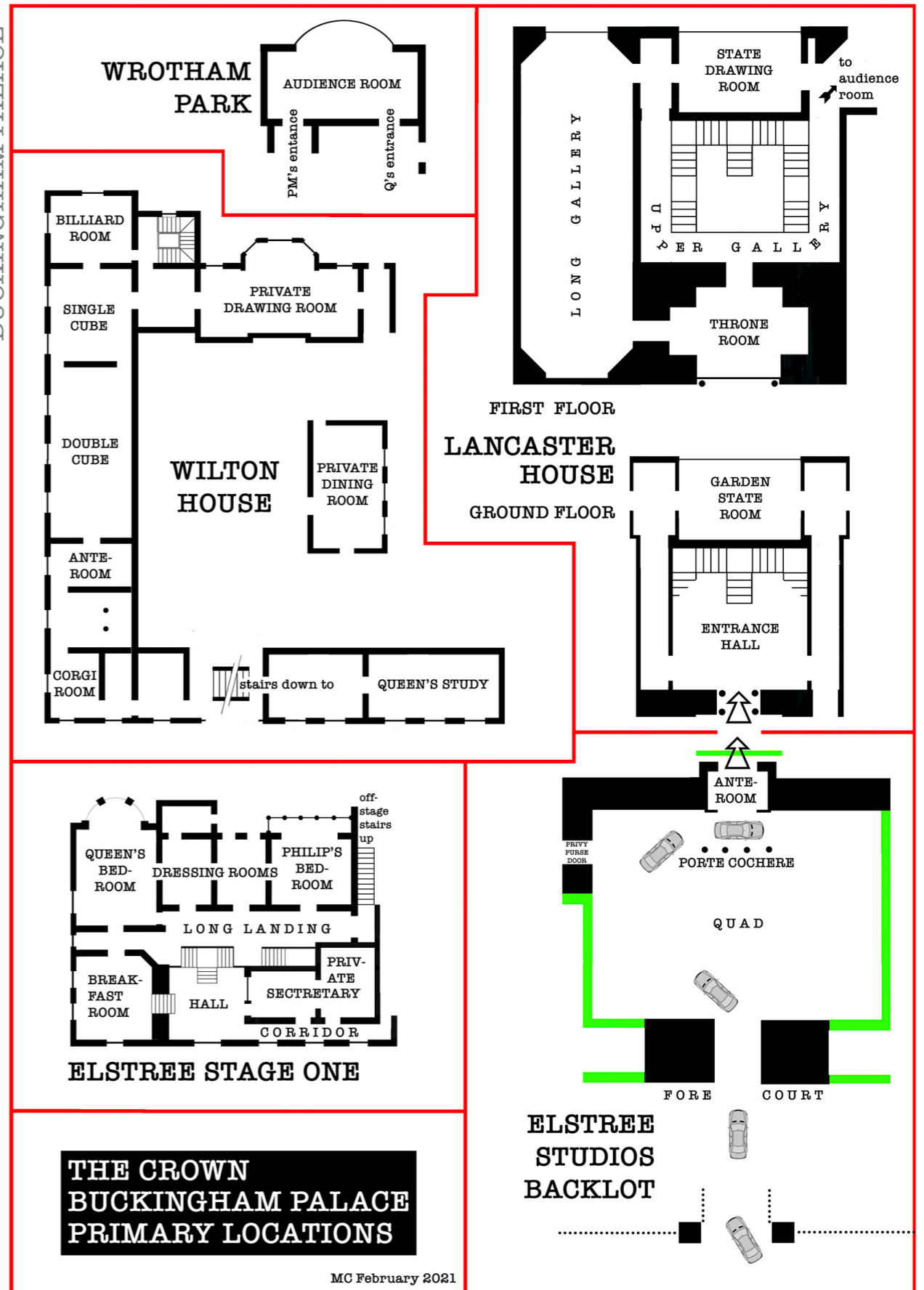


BALMORAL
GROUND FLOOR
CONTINUITY

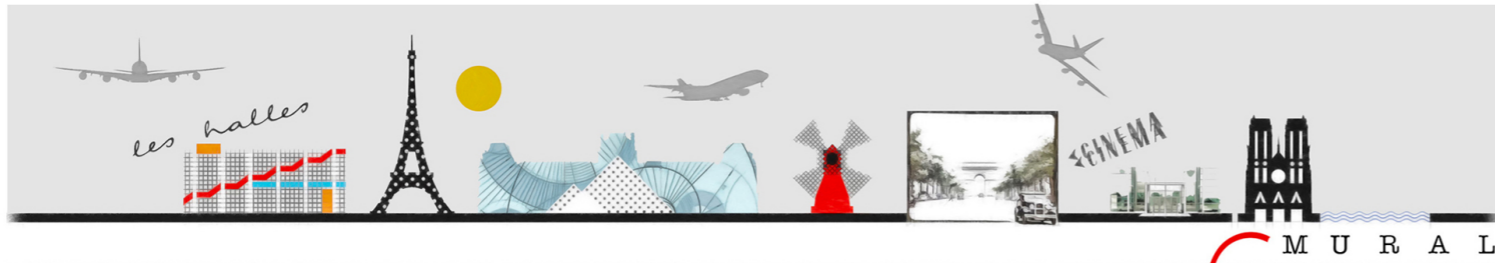
BALMORAL, KENSINGTON PALACE
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

THE CROWN

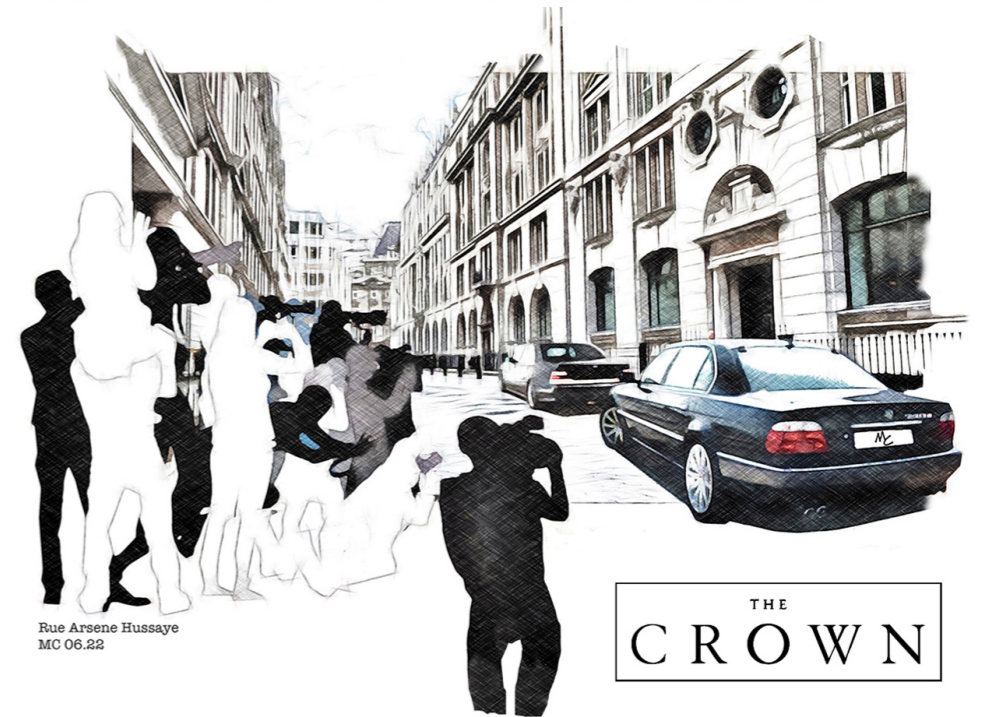
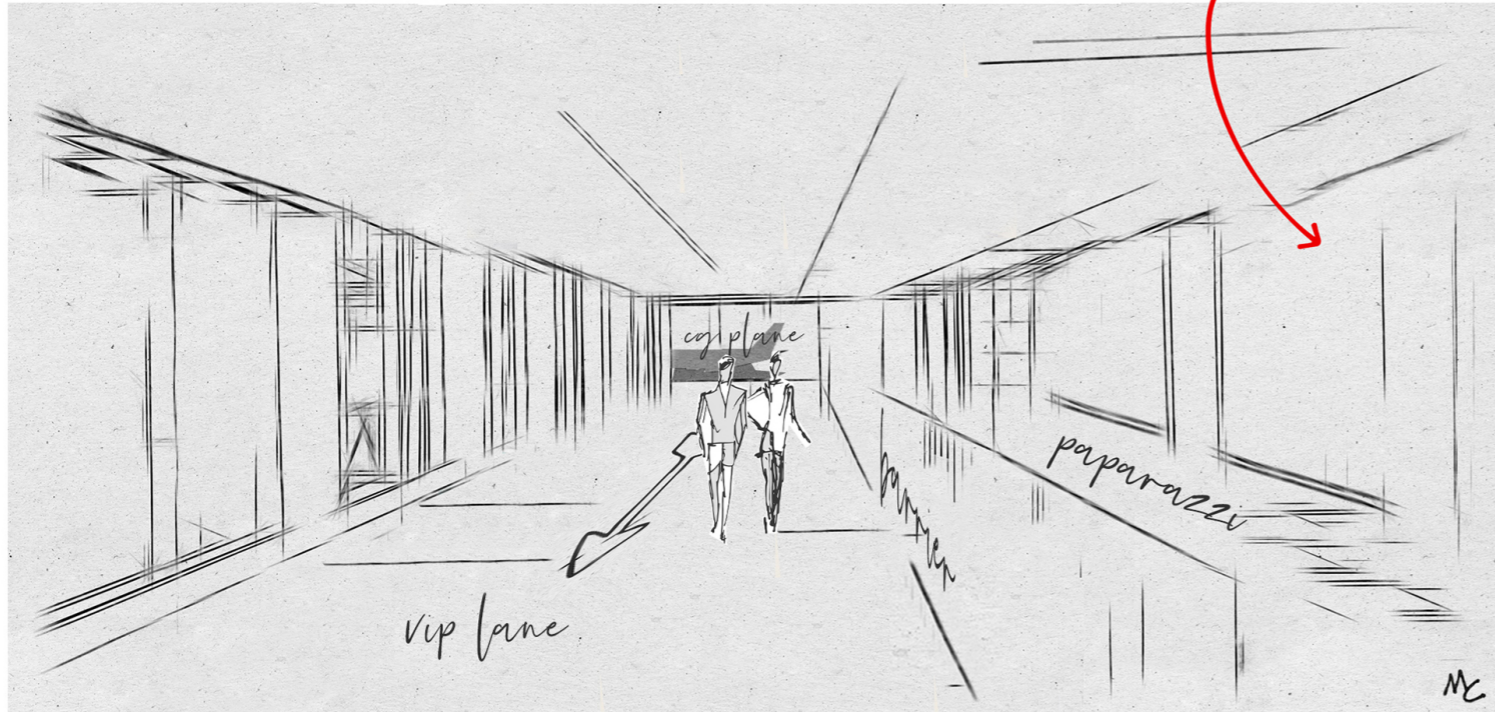
SET CONTINUITY



THE CROWN
BUCKINGHAM PALACE
PRIMARY LOCATIONS



P A R I S L O N D O N



THE
CROWN



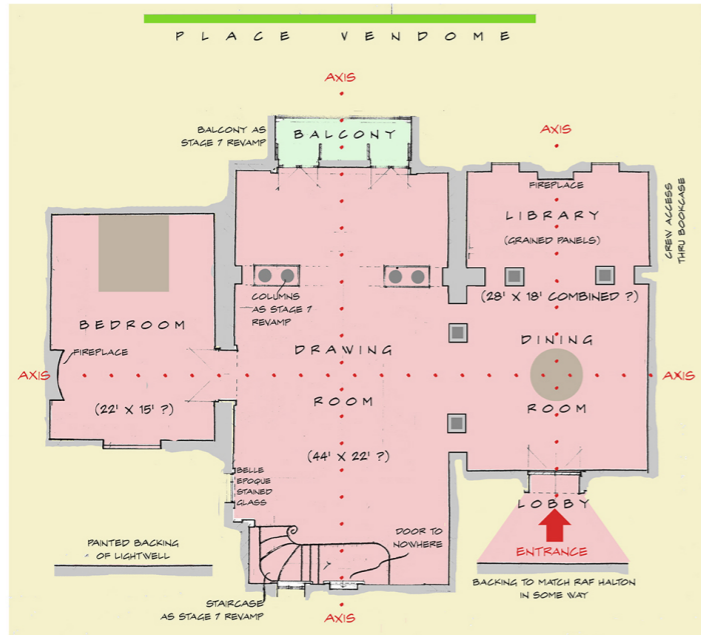
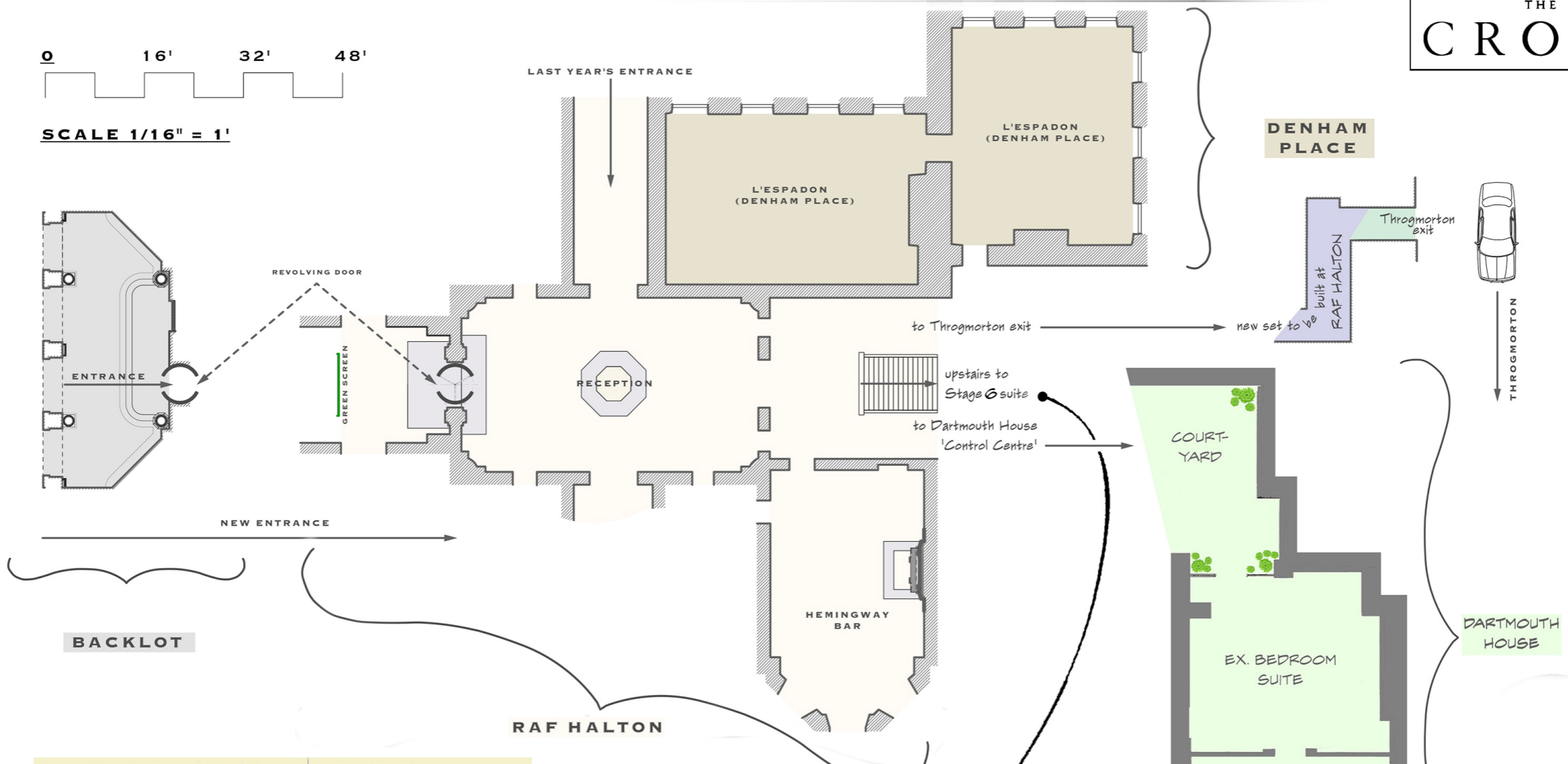
Queen Mother's bedroom

MC September '22

THE
CROWN

0 16' 32' 48'

SCALE 1/16" = 1'



ELSTREE
STUDIOS
STAGE 6



Ritz Paris

SCHMATIC PLAN
TO SHOW
CONTINUITY OF
THE SEVEN ELEMENTS:

FOUR LOCATIONS,
THREE BUILT
COMPOSITE SETS



Ritz London VE Day

MC '22

THE
CROWN



St George's Chapel, Windsor
— *built in a day in York Minster*

THE
CROWN



garden, Buckingham Palace

The Crown Season 6



Windsor Castle, The Queen's Drawing Room

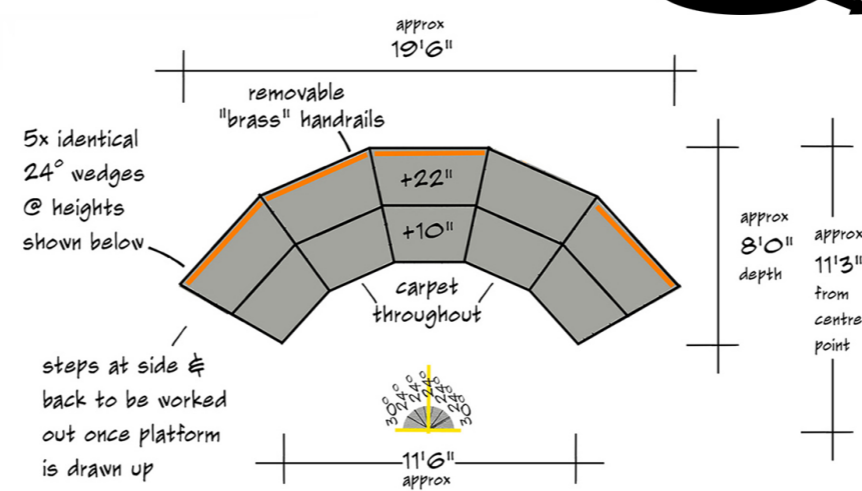
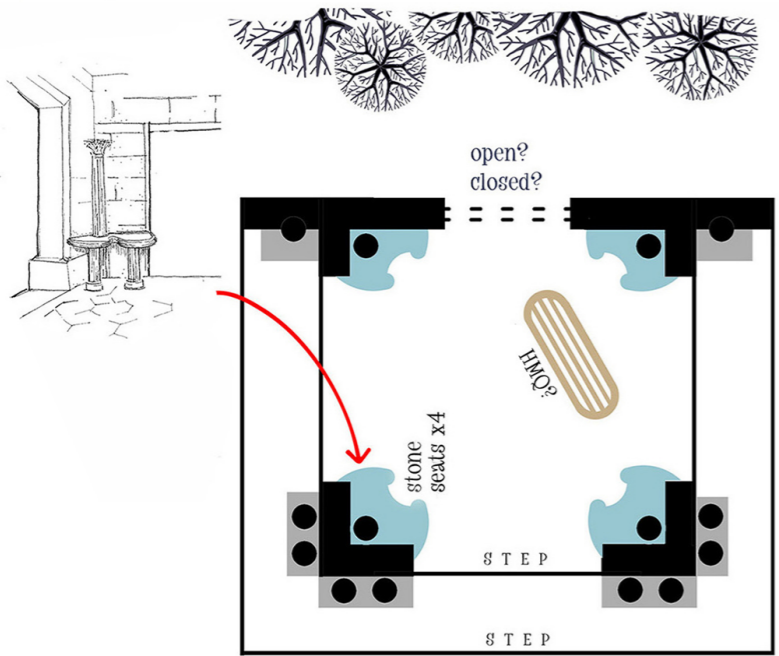
MC January 2022

THE WEDDING

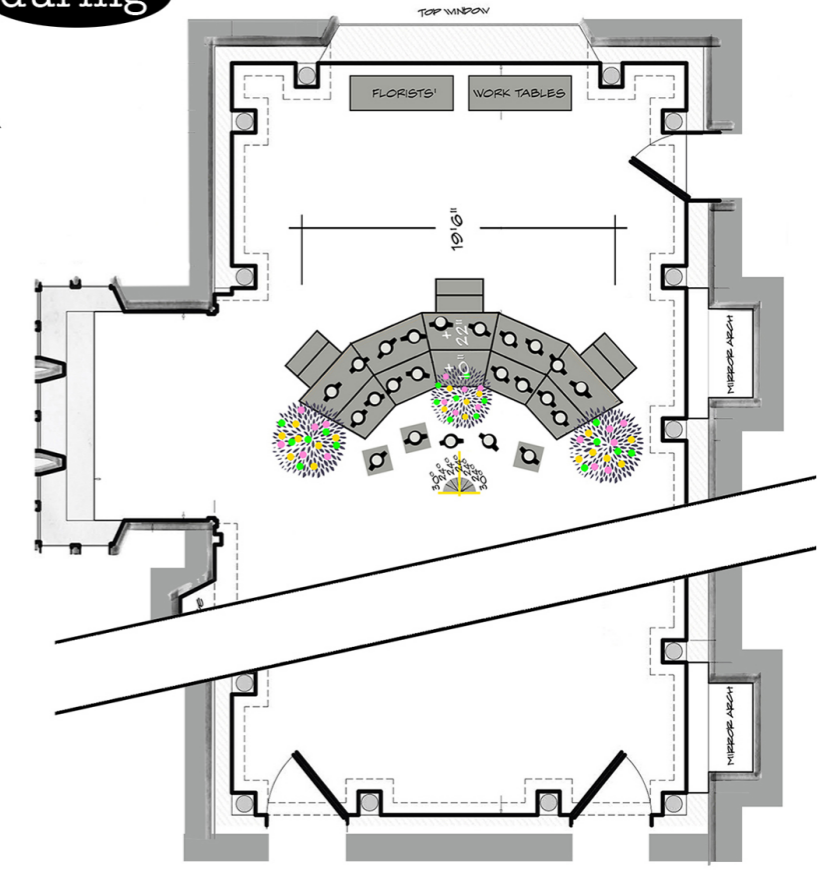
during

before

after



L-R: Philip Elizabeth Charles Camilla Shand-dad



Stage for Wedding Photo, Windsor Castle

THE CROWN