THE CROWN
SEASON THREE

production design
sketches & moodboards
THE CROWN
SEASON THREE, EPISODES 2, 3 & 4

Season Three sees our story enter a new era, with a new cast. In Episodes 2, 3, and 4, it travels the world for most of its running time: to California, Arizona, Washington DC, Wales and Greece, while Downing Street and the Royal palaces are visited less often than before, becoming the season’s dramatic and visual anchors.

In Episode Two, Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon travel to the USA, created with the use of locations and built environments found and constructed largely in southern Spain. Their freedom under blue skies is contrasted with the life of Margaret’s sister Elizabeth, back home in the grey world of Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle: frivolity vs wisdom; surface vs integrity; the ephemeral vs the enduring, all achieved, visually, by the use of colour, light and space. White House rooms are created to highlight an unrestrained LBJ Presidency, as compared to the more strait-laced Buckingham Palace.

Episode Three sees tragedy strike a Welsh mining village. The working lives and home lives of the community provide an arresting contrast with the Establishment in London, unsure how to tackle an unprecedented catastrophe. Conflicts – privilege vs adversity, allegiance vs resistance, wealth vs poverty (“Do you all live in this street?”) – are revealed as Elizabeth, Margaret and Tony find themselves subject to emotions none has faced before. The village was found in Wales, close to where the tragedy took place. The school was built twice, first on location before the event, then as a half-buried replica on the backlot with a partially destroyed street.

In view of the sensitivities of a devastated community, forensic attention to detail was paramount.

Philip’s mother is persuaded to escape a military coup in Athens and thus leave her decaying convent in Episode Four. In a Palace made vulnerable by Philip’s public display of entitlement, she is given a room in the attic, in her eyes impossibly luxurious, in the family’s impossibly spartan, safely tucked away, accessed via a network of staircases and corridors that show the sheer mileage of the place. Her taste for the simple runs counter to the Palace’s arcane protocol; the graphic clarity of a nun’s habit stands out among the richness of her lavish new surroundings. The story is observed by a newspaper journalist in search of the truth while a BBC documentary crew constructs a more palatable alternative ‘reality’.

Athens and its environs were recreated in southern Spain.

After the success of Seasons One and Two, the Buckingham Palace courtyard was taken away from its temporary location to be redesigned and reconstructed as part of the Elstree Studios backlot. It is now an integral part of a reimagined, rebuilt, more complete Buckingham Palace set, new from the ground up.
THE CROWN, SEASON 3

painting the Queen's portrait, BUCKINGHAM PALACE
THE CROWN, SEASON 3

PANTGLAS JUNIOR SCHOOL, MOY ROAD
THE CROWN
SEASON 3

MURALS FOR
WORKING MEN'S CLUB
GLAMORGAN

Ian Grozland
THE CROWN SEASON 3

CARGO PLANE INTERIOR
THE CROWN * SEASON 3 * MARGARET & TONY'S DRAWING ROOM