

ITV/SONY for BRITBOX

A promotional image for the TV show 'A Spy Among Friends'. It features two men, Gary Oldman and Tom Hiddleston, sitting on a patterned sofa in a dimly lit room. Oldman is on the left, wearing glasses and a dark suit with a white pocket square. Hiddleston is on the right, also in a dark suit. A lamp is visible in the background between them. The title 'A SPY AMONG FRIENDS' is overlaid in large white serif font.

A SPY AMONG FRIENDS

PRODUCTION DESIGNER: PAUL SPRIGGS | SUPERVISING ART DIRECTOR: HOLLY MORPETH | SET DECORATOR: JEN SAGUARO

Due to be broadcast November 2022

The Look of A Spy Among Friends.....

“A Spy Among Friends” is based on the New York Times best-selling book by Ben Macintyre, it dramatises the true story of Nicholas Elliot and Kim Philby. Two spies and life long friends, one of them who was betraying the other all along, at the height of the cold war.

The show was a really ambitious project spanning several decades and many countries and saw us completing over 200 sets. With such an expanse of work we had to very clever with locations making them work for multiple scenarios. We transformed rooms built sets into locations and cramped as much as we could into studio space.

The visual brief we had for the show was to embrace as much realism into the sets as we could, to embrace awkward spaces and unusual architectural details so nothing felt obviously designed and to create sets that could blur from locations in seamless motion ensuring the viewer would never know what was real and what was artifice. We utilised our research and referencing to embellish the sets with as much realism from the time as we could find, be it street signage or Berlin bus stops or recreating the original lights and fountain from the Metropol Hotel.

Having so many countries it was important that each had it's own stylistic language and lots of lighting was used to help denote these, warm coloured glass in Beirut, dynamic modern lighting in America, huge arching street lights in Berlin and stripped back bulbs for Russia.

It was also important to show the different worlds of MI5 and MI6 the two factions being at war was central to the script. The old boys club, aristocracy of MI6 was denoted using dark wood, ornate mouldings and a palate of greys and creams. The furniture was also kept traditional with wooden filing cabinets and desks. MI5 to contrast was to embrace the new, with a brighter more contemporary palette of peaches and bright blues, with metal furniture and paired back dressing.

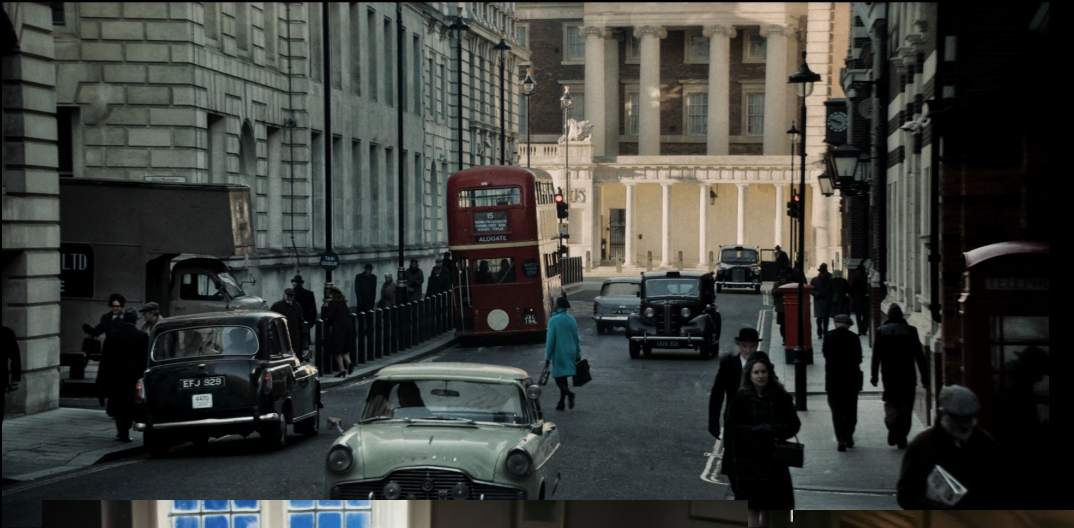
We shot both in London and Romania, there was quite the crossover of matching exterior locations from one country to another, often matching doorways and balconies from Romania to sets that we were building in studio in London so we had to be really organised with all our information gathering. And we were really lucky to have such an amazing team of talent out in Romania.

A Spy Among friends was a really rewarding project to have been involved with, a really fascinating story set in a time that's an absolute visual delight. Hopefully we have created a believable world that allows these real life stories to play out and envelops the viewer in a stylistic, compelling, espionage thriller.

LONDON....

MI6

set build on location...



attic office set build

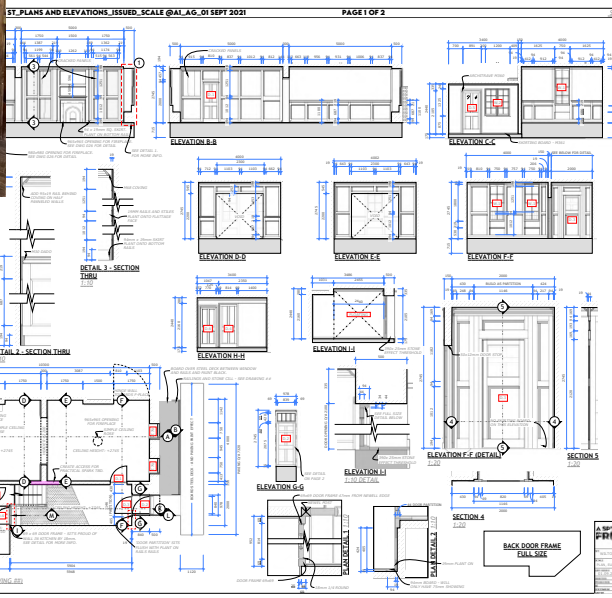


MI5 - location & set build

LONDON.....



WILTON STREET
Set Build in studio matched to
location Exterior



LILY'S HOUSE - London Location

LONDON.....



Bombed out street - London

LONDON APARTMENT - location match
door built into another location



BASEMENT BEDSIT - Set build in studio



FISH & CHIP SHOP - Location & set build comped together in post

RUSSIA.....



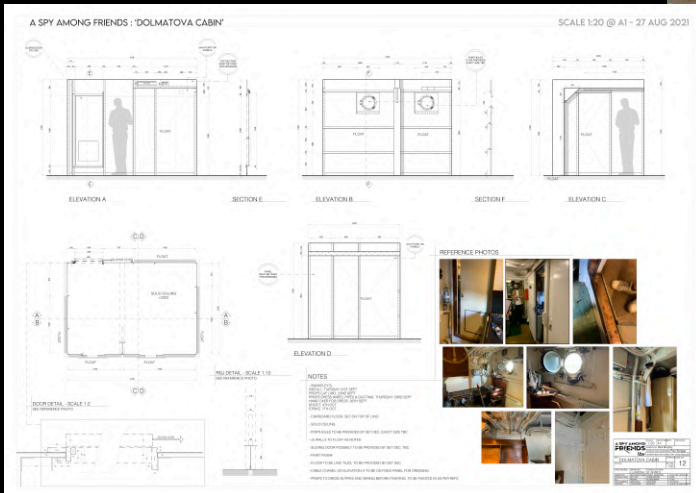
THE METROPOL HOTEL



Shot on location in Romania



RUSSIAN STREETS

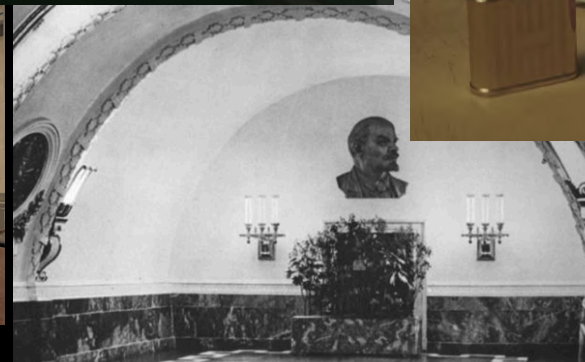
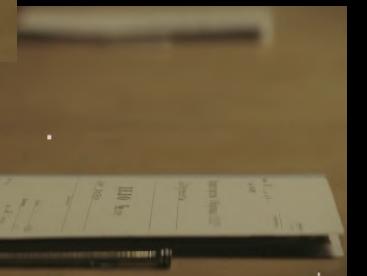


THE DALMOTOVA – Set built cabin, location ship & dock

RUSSIA.....

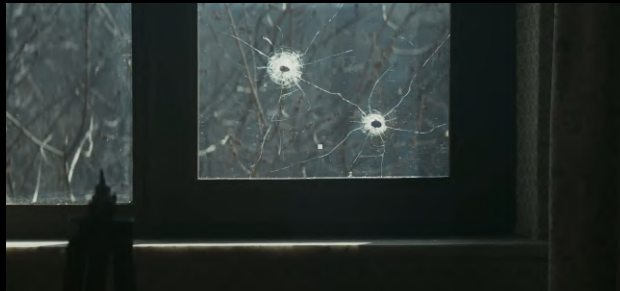


BERDENKO HOSPITAL



RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT BUILDING

RUSSIA.....



RUSSIAN SURVEILLANCE FLAT



PHILBY'S RUSSIAN FLAT

BEIRUT.....

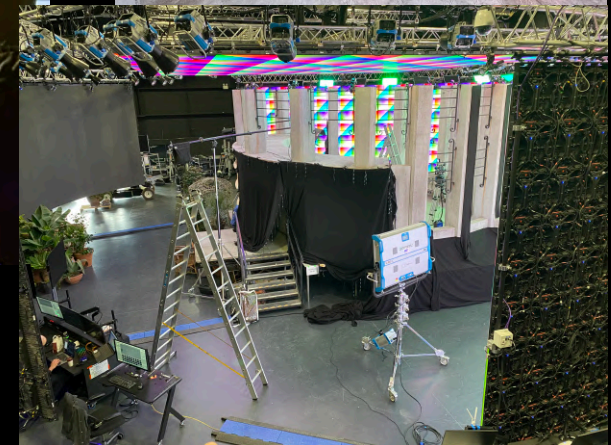


PHILBY'S BEIRUT APARTMENT & ROOF TERRACE

Set build



ROOF TERRACE - Set build shot on Arri's video wall, matched to location in Romania

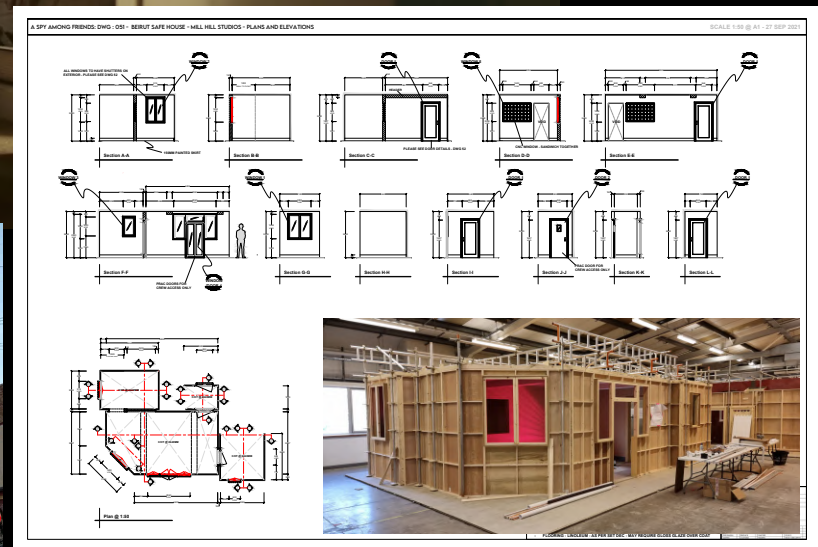


BEIRUT.....

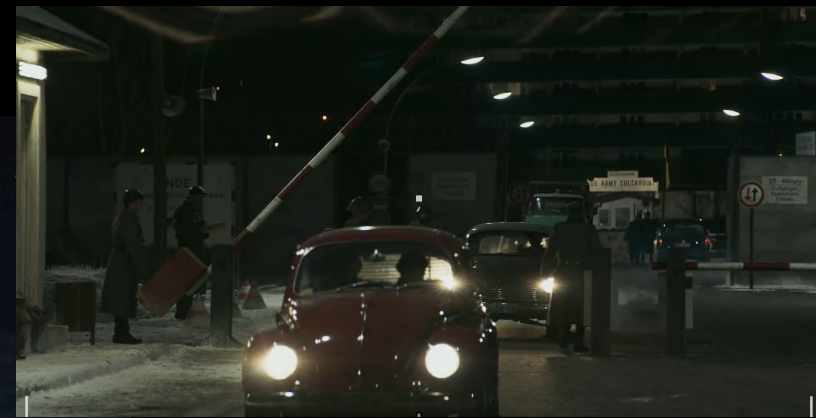
Safe House



Built in studio matched
to location in Romania



BERLIN.....



BERLIN BAR CONCEPT

CHECK POINT CHARLIE



BERLIN STREET - Concept



FBI

USA.....



AMERICAN HOME

