

Research blog

by Maria Teresa Krzyzanowska

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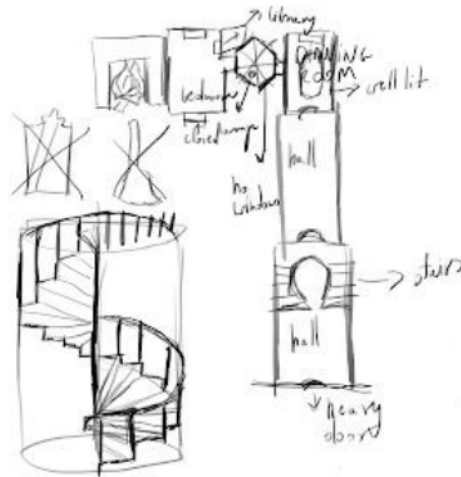
Here's the fragment I'll be using as a guide :

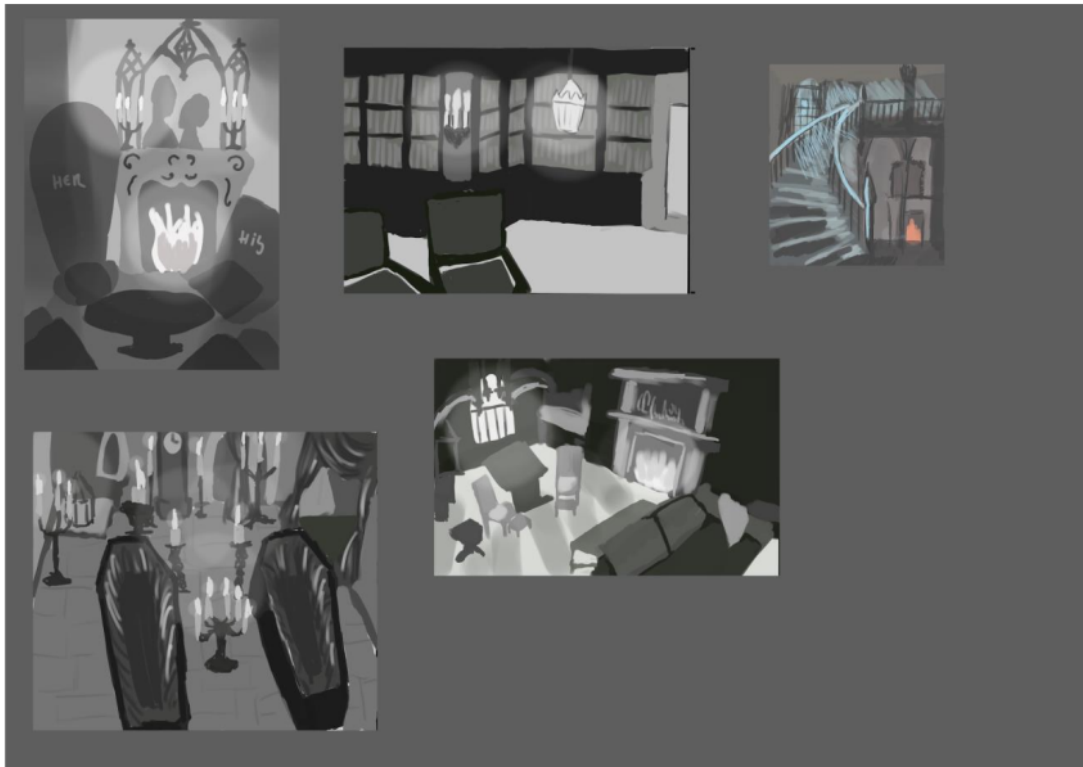
Fragment of the book - "Dracula" by Bram Stoker

¹
" Again he said. 'Welcome to my house! Enter freely. Go safely, and leave something of the happiness you bring!' The strength of the handshake was so much akin to that which I had noticed in the driver, whose face I had not seen, that for a moment I doubted if it were not the same person to whom I was speaking. So to make sure, I said interrogatively, 'Count Dracula?' He bowed in a courtly way as he replied, 'I am Dracula, and I bid you welcome, Mr. Harker, to my house. Come in, the night air is chill, and you must need to eat and rest.' As he was speaking, he put the lamp on a bracket on the wall, and stepping out, took my luggage. He had carried it in before I could forestall him. I protested, but he insisted. 'Nay, sir, you are my guest. It is late, and my people are not available. Let me see to your comfort myself.' He insisted on carrying my traps along the passage, and then up a great winding stair, and along another great passage, on whose stone floor our steps rang heavily. At the end of this he threw open a heavy door, and I rejoiced to see within a well-lit room in which a table was spread for supper, and on whose mighty hearth a great fire of logs, freshly replenished, flamed and flared. The Count halted, putting down my bags, closed the door, and crossing the room, opened another door, which led into a small octagonal room lit by a single lamp, and seemingly without a window of any sort. Passing through this, he opened another door, and motioned me to enter. It was a welcome sight. For here was a great bedroom well lighted and warmed with another log fire, also added to but lately, for the top logs were fresh, which sent a hollow roar up the wide chimney. The Count himself left my luggage inside and withdrew, saying, before he closed the door. 'You will need, after your journey, to refresh yourself by making your toilet. I trust you will find all you wish. When you are ready, come into the other room, where you will find your supper prepared.' The light and warmth and the Count's courteous welcome seemed to have dissipated all my doubts and fears. Having then reached my normal state, I discovered that I was half famished with hunger. So making a hasty toilet, I went into the other room. I found supper already laid out. My host, who stood on one side of the great fireplace, leaning against the stonework, made a graceful wave of his hand to the table, and said, 'I pray you, be seated and sup how you please. You will I trust, excuse me that I do not join you, but I have dined [...] There are certainly odd deficiencies in the house, considering the extraordinary evidences of wealth which are round me. The table service is of gold, and so beautifully wrought that it must be of immense value. The curtains and upholstery of the chairs and sofas and the hangings of my bed are of the costliest and most beautiful fabrics, and must have been of fabulous value when they were made, for they are centuries old, though in excellent order. I saw something like them in Hampton Court, but they were worn and frayed and moth-eaten. But still in none of the rooms is there a mirror. There is not even a toilet glass on my table, and I had to get the little shaving glass from my bag before I could either shave or brush my hair. I have not yet seen a servant anywhere, or heard a sound near the castle except the howling of wolves. There was absolutely nothing in the room, book, newspaper, or even writing materials, so I opened another door in the room and found a sort of library. The door opposite mine I tried, but found locked. In the library I found, to my great

delight, a vast number of English books, whole shelves full of them, and bound volumes of magazines and newspapers. A table in the centre was littered with English magazines and newspapers, though none of them were of very recent date. The books were of the most varied kind, history, geography, politics, political economy, botany, geology, law, all relating to England and English life and customs and manners. There were even such books of reference as the London Directory, the 'Red' and 'Blue' books, Whitaker's Almanac, the Army and Navy Lists, and it somehow gladdened my heart to see it, the Law List."

First I made some drawings of what was in the Castle and how it could look like:





I've started from making mood boards then slowly moved towards making thumbnails - I wanted to capture what I could observe from the resources I gathered. I aim towards a very atmospheric environment, slightly spooky but warmed up with light sources. Afterward, I decided to let go of the idea of electricity, to use just: fire and the moon as a source of light to enhance my idea. A very dark, but a welcoming place.

To dive into the world of Dracula, I've decided to create some moodboards, using artworks and screens from adaptations.

There are clear paths in which people imagine this world

First one- the castle, often black and white which enhances the impression of: dark, dramatic, huge, wealthy. Sharp

edges.



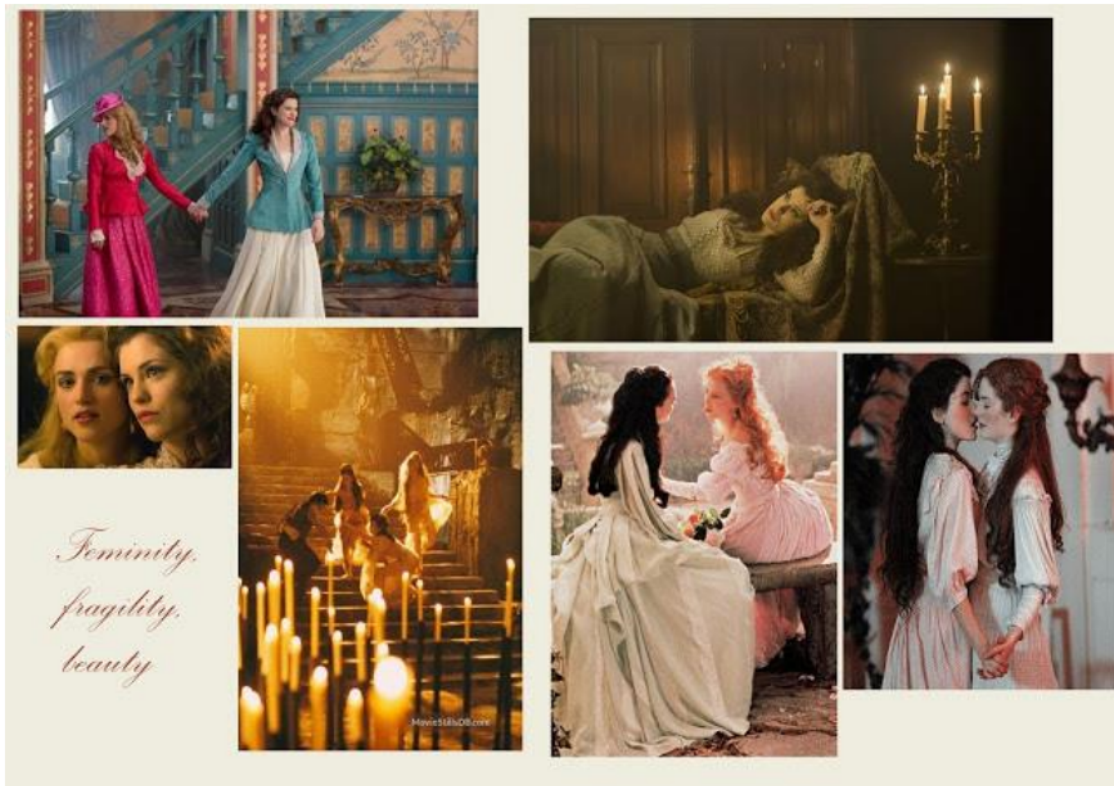
Dracula character is often portrayed as inaccessible, cold, sometimes miserable and angry. But there's one person who can crack his shell, and it's Mina. With her he changes, he's delicate, full of warmth.

But he knows his abilities and often he uses them to catch the victim or to manipulate situation.

Romantic character.



Mina is a synonym of femininity. She's often portrayed in light colours, long, beautiful dresses, with loose hair. Fragile from outside but very wise.



Blood means live for humans and creatures like him. Often they drink it from beautiful carved glasses.



After my research made for creating moodboards and creating them I have final thoughts.

He was created in a romantic era and has romantic character traits. Always there's a tragic moment during his life. Even though he's not a human he can become one to function and to use his environment. He's charming and warm whenever he wants to.

There has been made a lot of adaptations, with different plots but part of it stays always the same.

Dracula has become a canon, original, the only one in his kind.

I've decided to make two his bedrooms, with a twist that Dracula and Mina are together and love each other. And both are vampires. I want to show two contrasting things - gothic but warm environment with a secret hidden behind the doors literally, using 3d space and filling it with 3d and 2d objects which I had drawn. I want it to end up somewhere between realism and illustration.

I want to use hexagonal room as a second, true bedroom hidden behind a shelf with books.

Hexagonal room was inspired by a romantic castle in north Scotland near where I have been living.

Which is an inspiration for me too.

2

Later on, I've started creating bedroom using basic shapes in 3D using Blender which I know the most, to enhance the feel of space and proportions which are very easy to mess up, so it's best to start to correct them from the beginning.

It ended up being the base for my whole project.

I really wanted to keep the 6-wall room, so I did end up with two rooms, which in my case is something that shows two-faced nature of the creature like a vampire-human alike and supernatural, (which has to be hidden from humans) Maybe contradicting itself too.

Unfortunately, I didn't record the process, but it was very simple and I think a lot is the same as my basic idea.

For the timeframe, I chose Victorian Romania like it is in the source text. The castle, which those two rooms are from, exists for a long time and that's why everything's from different time periods. I wanted to add a slight gothic feel to it but didn't mean to make it strong. Everything should feel cosy, luxurious, heavy, warm, but with a pinch of darkness.

For the color pallet and textures, I went for a classic red in combination with dark wood, heavy fabrics, stone, and metal.

2

In my castle are living two creatures: Mina with count Dracula. They're in love with each other. They're both vampires, Dracula changed Mina because they wanted to be with themselves eternally (there are some variations about the story, I can say I based it on another book about Dracula or the movie).

Their space is filled with decadence, warm tones contrasting with cold ones, rough textures with soft ones. They have two bedrooms, one's typical for vampires, the second one just a bedroom. They have it to pretend that they're humans when they have quests and they don't want to be recognized, that's why the real bedroom is hidden behind the shelves.

They exist in this world like humans and they can be awake during the day. They can enjoy being close to the fireplace.

2

I decided to connect 3d and 2d on the 3d space using my drawings. It is very important to point that because I'm not really happy about the result but I couldn't change it, it was way too late.

I wanted to run away from total realism which I was going to (for example some of the materials which I've used are PBR in its nature) and add some of my cartoony, stylized shapes.











Unfortunately, that's all I can copy from my blog because i'm on a way and I simply didn't know that I need to copy everything to word I would

do that. And I attached my final renders and animation to my blog, I thought that was the way but it seems that it should be added to teams. Again I cannot do that on the phone. My animations are there too. And presentation I've added from one drive to my blog as well.

Thank you for understanding, here is the link to my blog:

<https://research-and-design-maria.blogspot.com/?m=1>

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