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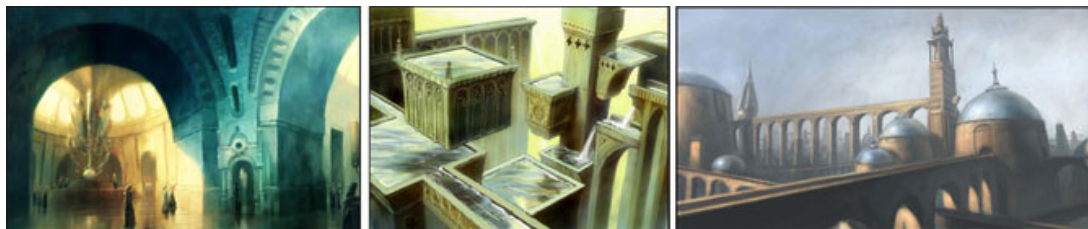
Dissension Style Guide: Azorius

Magic Arcana
 Wednesday, May 3, 2006

The Azorius Senate combines Blue's respect for knowledge with White's devotion to order. The result is an intricate hierarchy founded on principles of law and the power of planning. Today we take a look at *Dissension's* style guide to see how the style of the Azorius expresses these values visually.

A style guide is a document of text and reference illustrations used to guide artists who work on a *Magic* set. Anthony Waters, Dan Scott, Greg Staples, Jim Nelson, Kev Walker, Martina Pilcerova, Matt Cavotta, Matt Wilson, and Tomas Giorello all worked as concept illustrators for *Dissension*.

Prahv, the spire-and-dome seat of the Senate's power, is a study in marble, gold leaf, and crystal. It is shown as stately and elegant, full of echoing, ceremonial halls and domed chambers.



Concept illustrations of Prahv

Take a look at these Azorius figures: from left to right, a human wizard, an advisor spirit, and a human paladin. Their dress is often more ceremonial than practical -- note the constrictive robes and heavy armor. Movement would be hindered -- but to the Azorius, *hindrance is practical*.



Azorius wizard, ghost advisor/counselor, and knight

Azorius weaponry: simple but beautiful, unscratched and again, largely ceremonial. But, as an Azorius *Sky Hussar* might ask, shouldn't a sword's edge be used as a last resort? Most of the time, shouldn't the blade serve its main purpose: to shine gloriously as you fly griffinback out of the disk of the sun?

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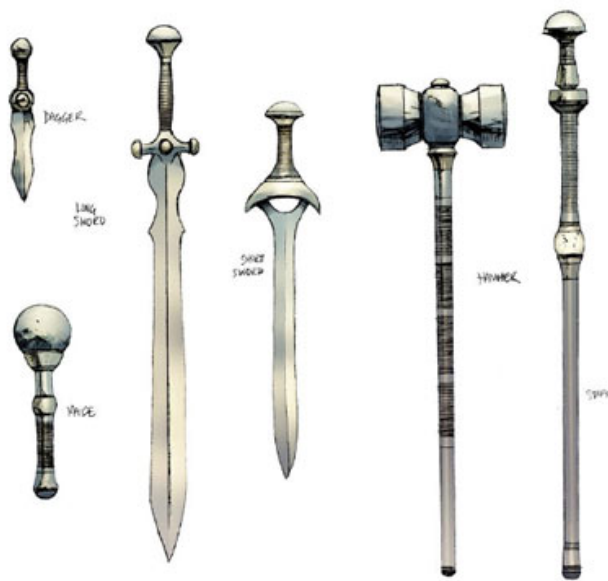
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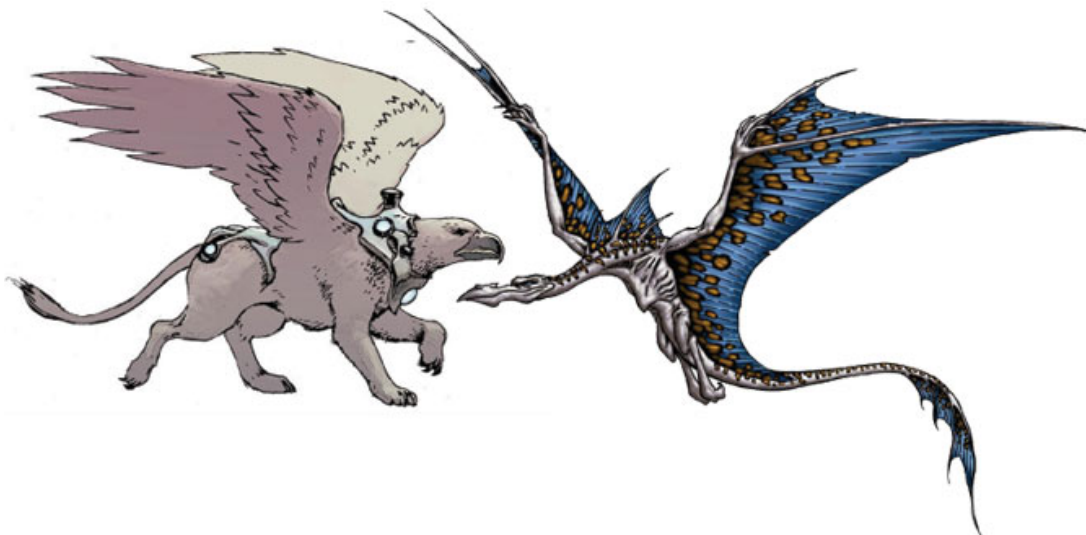
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Below you can see concept sketches for a couple of Azorius's trained beasts. Being the Blue-White guild, it is of course long on flying creatures. As you can see, even the Azorius mounts seem noble and detached.



Azorius griffin and drake concepts



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