

William Haines
designs



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BEN RITTER (PORTRAIT), COURTESY OF WILLIAM HAINES DESIGNS (DESK),
COURTESY OF CHARLES FRADIN (TOTES)

Divine Desk

In 1957, actor-turned-decorator William Haines designed a sleek partners desk for Los Angeles socialite Betsy Bloomingdale's bedroom, complete with whimsical faux bamboo detailing to match her decor. Fifty years on, William Haines Designs, now headed by Peter Schifando and J. Jonathan Joseph, has reissued the desk, which is wrapped entirely in leather, with carvings in a hand-rubbed lacquer finish. "Betsy often had friends over for lunch," Joseph says. "She entertained in her bedroom—only female guests, of course." The desk stood out from the wall so that Bloomingdale and her guests could sit on either side. With its clean lines and faux exotic trim, the desk—like all Billy Haines designs—is a wonderful reminder of a bygone Hollywood, where ease and artistry went hand in hand. williamhaines.com. —GERALDINE DE PUY