

# Robb Report <sup>LUXURY</sup> Home

CUSTOM DESIGN + ARCHITECTURE + TECHNOLOGY



## BLASTS OF COLOR

Banish Beige! Bring on the Blues!

WINTER 2006  
\$5.95 US \$7.95 CAN

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A Firehouse Becomes a Garage Five Great Game Tables  
Surround-Sound Massage Chair Virtual Blackjack Table

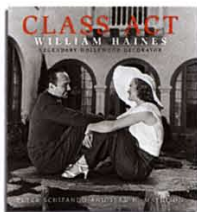


This page: William Haines decorated the homes of some of Los Angeles' most illustrious families, among them the Annenbergs. Above is the understated living room of Sunnylands, the Annenbergs' Rancho Mirage estate. Opposite, top: A reproduction of Haines' Brentwood Ashanti chair. Bottom right: A ca. 1955 rendering of a Palm Springs residence drawn by Haines.

# High Society



William Haines' glamour is alive and kicking



**FOR THOSE** who hear “mid-century modern” and cannot get past thoughts of plywood chairs and minimalist interiors, discovering the designs of William Haines is a breath of fresh air. “Haines’ career peaked during the 1940s and

’50s, but his designs were dramatically different from what most people associate with that era,” says Peter Schifando, who has kept the Haines pieces in production since moving to Los Angeles in 1987 to work on the Reagan library with Haines’ protégé, Ted Graber. “His clients were people like the Annenbergs, the Bloomingdales and just about everyone in Hollywood, from Jack Warner to Joan Crawford,” Schifando says. “These weren’t people who wanted to buy off the rack. Everything he created for them was one-of-a-kind and made from the most luxurious materials.”

After a successful career as an actor, Haines left showbiz at the peak of his career to enter the world of interior decorating. Best known for his Hostess chair with its low curved back that was ideally suited for cocktail party conversation, Haines’ designs have re-entered the limelight with the help of Schifando—who continues to produce them on a commission basis—and Jean H. Mathison, assistant to both Haines and Graber for 30 years. Culling from their collective archives, the pair collaborated on a book entitled, *Class Act, William Haines: Legendary Hollywood Decorator* (Pointed Leaf Press, \$95), the first monograph of Haines’ 40-year design career. “His designs don’t scream out personality—they let the objects around them speak,” Schifando says. “The furniture was always just a backdrop for the art and the people around them.”

SAMANTHA BROOKS

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LEFT: DAVID GLOMB; CHAIR: LUCILE LACRANNE. ALL OTHER IMAGES: © 2005 POINTED LEAF PRESS, LLC FROM CLASS ACT: WILLIAM HAINES' LEGENDARY HOLLYWOOD DECORATOR BY PETER SCHIFANDO AND JEAN H. MATHISON