

In the Air

Babylon Revisited

The unrestrained glitz and urbane glamour of the 1970s jet set has re-emerged as a sophisticated staple of contemporary design.

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SEVENTIES COOL IS still hot, with design this season channeling the hedonism of the "Have It All" decade. The focus this time around is on artists from France and Italy, whose furniture and objects once graced the streamlined, ultrachic interiors of European high society.

The sinuous metal forms produced by the aristocratic Milanese designer Gabriella Crespi, and much sought after by the jet set past and present, inspired a new capsule shoe collection by Angelo Ruggeri at Sergio Rossi, who based his sculptural heels on the curvilinear shapes of Crespi's multifunctional creations. New pieces available from Jonathan Adler and the Paris lighting design firm Charles echo the work of the renowned sculptors Philippe Hiquily and Guy de Rougemont, whose designs were often used by the legendary French decorator Henri Samuel as central elements in the salons of the bygone beau monde. Those slick, sexy interiors, with their liberal embrace of metal accents, have also found favor with Kelly Wearstler, who has been so inspired by this epoch that she incorporates original artifacts into her schemes, and has started her own line of '70s-accented furniture and home accessories. Drawn to its originality and inventiveness, contemporary designers are adapting the elegance and worldliness of the recent past and applying it to today's glamorous yet relaxed aesthetic. **Q**

HOUSE OF MIRTH From near right: Palazzo table lamp, designed by the ceramicist Joëlle Fèvre for the lighting company Charles (donghia.com); the jewelry designer Kenneth Jay Lane, the epitome of exotic '70s glamour, photographed with his then wife Nicola Weymouth.



A FINE BALANCE Clockwise from left: the innovative Italian furniture and jewelry designer Gabriella Crespi's apartment in Rome; the bar from Crespi's 1979 Yang Yin collection; a shoe from Sergio Rossi's resort collection, inspired by Crespi (\$695; saksfifthavenue.com); Crespi in 1970.



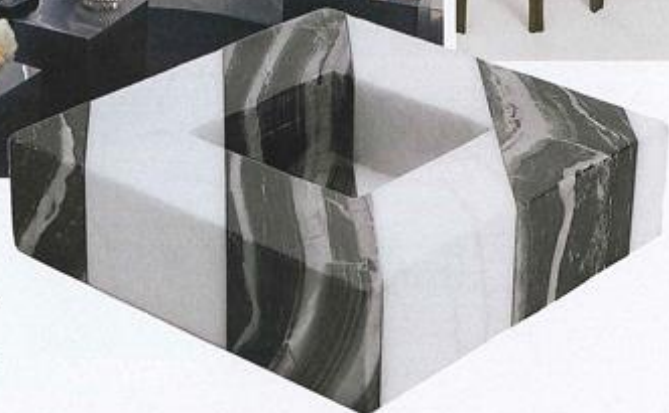
GILDED AGE Right: the interior designer Henri Samuel's house in Paris, where the velvet sofas contrast with the gilded organic forms of the Philippe Hiquily tables and chairs. Below: Jonathan Adler's Brass Teardrop Table (\$895; jonathanadler.com).



SHINE ON Right: Orgues table lamp, designed by Jacques Charles in the 1970s (donghia.com). Below: Jonec table by Charles (donghia.com).



FRENCH CONNECTION Clockwise from left: the interior decorator François Catroux and his wife, Betty, a muse to Yves Saint Laurent, at their wedding in Cap Ferrat in 1967 (inspired by the bride's look, Joseph has released its own Pop Fur Betty coat, \$3,395; joseph-fashion.com); the salon of the Catrouxes' Parisian apartment in a 17th-century hôtel particulier, which they filled with contemporary designs, photographed by Horst; Kelly Wearstler's solid Marquina and white Carrara marble square dish (\$595; kellywearstler.com).



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: PASCAL HINGOIS/COURTESY OF EDITIONS NORMA; CHARLES-PARIS/ DONGHIA; COURTESY OF KELLY WEARSTLER; HORST/AVOUIRE; BÉATRICE MASTI; COURTESY OF BETTY & FRANÇOIS CATROUX; COURTESY OF JONATHAN ADLER.