

JANUARY 2009

House Beautiful

A CLEAN SLATE

TOP 10
DECORATING
MISTAKES
**TOTALLY
FIXABLE!**

IT STARTS WITH
YOUR CLOSET...

SEE PAGE 70



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SPOTLIGHT

The Billy Baldwin Collection

By
ORLI BEN-DOR

Perfect replicas of the legendary designer's classic pieces are back in production: Not too big. Not too small. Just right—for any house or apartment



BILLY BALDWIN

He took the New York City decorating scene by storm in the 1930s, and eventually counted Jackie O and Babe Paley as both clients and friends. "His style is honest and American," says the owner Susan Dempsey. "I'm so proud to continue producing his work."

• BILLY BALDWIN COLLECTION BY VENTRY LTD:
To the trade; 212-253-5673; ventryltd.com



STUDIO SOFA

"For Billy, the sofa was the foundation of any room. He preferred modern, fully upholstered sofas for their character and comfort. Today, his design doesn't look oversize because it's so simple, elegant, and classic."

84"W x 36"D x 33"H



STEP TABLE

"Billy thought that most rooms had too many furniture legs, hence the open fretwork design. It's sort of see-through, substantial yet airy. He used these in living rooms, on each side of a sofa."

Oak and glass. 18"W x 30"D x 24"H

SMALL SLIPPER CHAIR

"The slipper chair was Billy's favorite chair of all. It's remarkably versatile. He once said that small women and football linebackers find it equally comfortable!"

18"W x 27"D x 29"H



PORTER ÉTAGÈRE

"Billy designed this for one of his masterpieces, Cole Porter's apartment in New York's Waldorf-Astoria. He had a few in his own apartment, too."

Brass, mahogany, lacquer.
36"W x 14"D x 84"H



TURKISH OTTOMAN

"A quirky design that's versatile and portable. He used these all the time. If you look at pictures of his work closely, you'll see them tucked to the side, under a cocktail table...everywhere!"

25"W x 25"D x 17"H

REFERENCE

Baldwin wrote two books that are now out-of-print, but you can check abebooks.com for vintage copies. In *Billy Baldwin Decorates* (1972), you can see his Manhattan apartment (right), its walls lacquered his favorite Coromandel brown. One of the greatest rooms of the 20th century!

