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Hollywood Regency makes a statement that evokes glamour

Posted: August 14, 2010

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1 | 2 Next Page

Summer is slipping toward September, leaving us with fleeting memories of beach reads and vacation movies. So here's a lasting vestige of Hollywood you can live with -- the retro style dubbed Hollywood Regency.

Bring on the glam. Mirrors and marble, gilt and mahogany, ebony and black lacquer. Hollywood Regency may be retro, but it isn't mid-century minimal.

ABOUT SALLY FALK NANCREDE

Veteran journalist Sally Falk Nancrede loves home fashion whether it's funky or fine, traditional or mod as long as it speaks to the heart.



Antiques and historic preservation hold special meaning to this Indiana native who lives in a 100-year-old former St. Margaret's Guild Decorators' Show House.

With bachelor's and master's degrees from Indiana University, she has covered furniture markets from Chicago to High Point, Dallas to Milan, Italy, and has received numerous national and local awards for her home furnishings coverage.



Furniture in the Dorothy Draper Collection, named for the famous decorator, hearkens to Hollywood's heyday. - Photos provided by Kindel Furniture



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Regency style describes furniture fashionable when George, Prince of Wales, was Regent, from 1811 to 1820. Classical and Egyptian motifs were used, but not with the lavishness of some French Empire furnishings. Regency corresponds roughly to Empire style in France, Federal in the United States and Biedermeier in Germany.

Hollywood Regency? Well, that's the 20th-century version as only California does things. Think over-the-top with glitz and glamour, movie stars in long gowns trailing white mink coats, Duesenberg roadsters and interior designer Dorothy Draper, the most famous decorator in America from the '30s to the '60s.

Despite what at least one blogger declared a couple of years ago, Hollywood Regency is not dead. Just check out the 30 pages of Hollywood Regency furnishings on eBay.

Iconic Dorothy Draper designs are being reproduced by Kindel Furniture. Dramatic style was her hallmark,

especially cabbage-rose chintzes and neo-baroque elements. The Kindel collection (done with designer Carlton Varney, owner of Dorothy Draper and Co. in New York) is a blend of glamour, current lifestyles and a wink to the past.

California designer Kelly Wearstler reigns as queen of Hollywood Regency. Described as a "fanciful wild-child," Wearstler is best known for her exuberant interiors. Her designs are anything but minimal: full of color, enchanting, spontaneously charming.

Wearstler recently introduced a new line with Sferra. It includes bed linens, cashmere throws, pillows and decorative accessories. She tells consumers to dress your bed by mixing bedding just like you do clothes. That way your bed is as original and surprising as you are.

1 | 2 Next Page

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Designer Kelly Wearstler's bed linens for Sferra let you clothe your bed in style. - Photo provided by Kelly Wearstler Inc.



A latticework screen is a bold backdrop for the Dorothy Draper sea glass sofa. - Photo provided by Kindel Furniture Company

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Furniture in the Dorothy Draper Collection, named for the famous decorator, hearkens to Hollywood's heyday. (Photos provided by Kindel Furniture)

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