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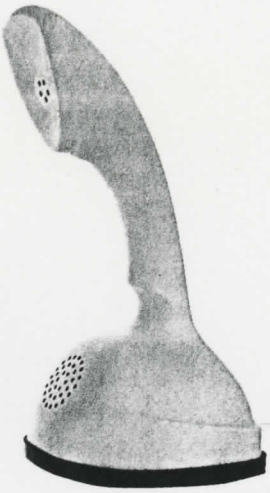
DESIGN

Swedish Style

From the classics of Swedish Modern to the latest offerings from Stockholm, Swedish designs for the home have lasting appeal.



Left, from top: Lamp and coatrack, both from David Design; Ad-Hoc aluminum vase; IKEA wall clock. Center: Chairs from Scandinavian Design. Bottom: Area bed and linens.

The functional, inexpensive objects and furniture for which Sweden has become known now extend far beyond the palewood pieces of the past. Today, this aesthetic is lighting up interiors with bold new glassware, furniture, linens, and accessories for the home. This fall, New York's Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts presents a traveling exhibition called "An Alliance of Art and Industry: The Brilliance of Swedish Glass, 1918–1939." Beginning November 21, more than 120 works from Orrefors, Kosta Boda, and other famous Swedish glass manufacturers will be on view.

Bard also recently hosted an exhibit honoring Josef Frank's contributions to architecture, furniture, and textile design. From 1933 to 1966, Frank was chief designer at Stockholm's noted Svenskt Tenn firm, which still manufactures and sells many of his pieces (eight of Frank's textile designs will be available in the U.S. beginning in January, through Brunschwig & Fils). Frank's ongoing popularity can be attributed to his "emphasis on informality," says Nina Stritzler-Levine, co-curator of the Frank exhibit. "He was interested in how people engage with each other as well as how they engage with their objects." ■

From top: Cobra phone, ca. 1956; Area vase; 1922 cobalt bowl, by Simon Gate for Sandvik Glasshouse; table from David Design; neo-Egyptian stool, by Josef Frank, ca. 1941, for Svenskt Tenn.

By Brooke Stoddard

Harper's Bazaar (Sept '96)

PHOTOGRAPHS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: STEVE WISBAUER; COURTESY OF DAVID DESIGN; BRUCE WHITE; STEVE WISBAUER (3); COURTESY OF DAVID DESIGN (2); STEVE WISBAUER (2). PER ARES 3, SEE B... OR RETAILS AND STORES