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THE MID-ATLANTIC'S HOUSE AND GARDEN MAGAZINE

MAY 2007

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## ART DECO



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The Art Deco style was born out of the 1925 World's Fair in Paris, which was a showcase for Europe's new approach to modern design in the post World War I era. According to John Pile's *A History of Interior Design* (John Wiley & Sons, Inc.), "sharply angled and cubist forms; the use of aluminum, black lacquer, and glass; and zigzag shapes that were thought to relate to electricity and radio served as symbols

of the modern world."

Art Deco celebrates the machine age, Hollywood glamour, and innovation. To that end, the style is associated with architectural, streamlined forms in furniture and the use of gleaming materials such as glass, enamel, mirrors, and metal to cover surfaces. It also embraced exoticism, throwing together tribal prints and unique materials such as sharkskin with designs from the classi-

cal, such as columns and fluting. Fabrics are either rich, like mohair, or geometric. An Art Deco interior would feature bright colors such as blue, red, and magenta to create a vibrant room and black for high contrast. "[Art Deco is] a very animated design, yet there's a cleanliness about it," explains Gary Inman, an interior designer and teacher of interior design history at Virginia Commonwealth University.

MANHEIM RUSEAU: [MANHEIMRUSEAU.COM](http://MANHEIMRUSEAU.COM); ANDRÉ ARBUS AND WILLIAM SWITZER: [WILLIAMSWITZERCOLLECTION.COM](http://WILLIAMSWITZERCOLLECTION.COM)