

# ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

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## FRANK SINATRA

AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR OF THE LEGENDARY PERFORMER'S PALM SPRINGS ESTATE



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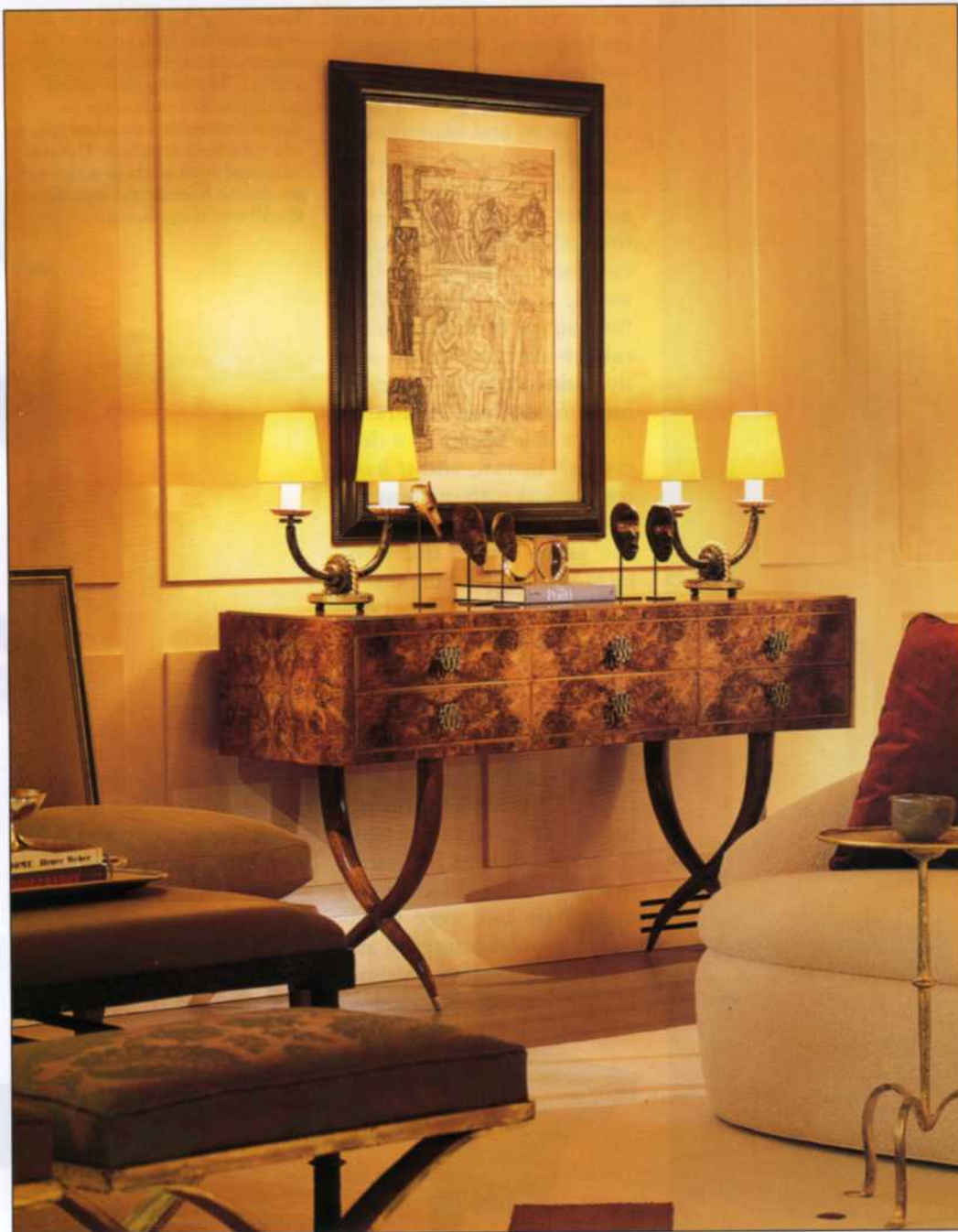


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Architects get excited about process; designers get excited about acquisition," says Scott Himmel. "I get excited about both." Himmel's dual interests stem from his twenty-one years as an architect and decorator. (He was also a partner in Mattaliano, a manufacturer of European furniture reproductions from the thirties, forties and fifties.) So when Chicago entrepreneur and film producer Ted Tannebaum asked Himmel to redesign and furnish an apartment in a prewar building overlooking Lake Michigan, it was the perfect opportunity for the architect-decorator to engage all his skills. Tannebaum, whose production company, Lakeshore Entertainment, recently made such films as *Arlington Road*, starring Jeff Bridges, *The Real Blonde*, with Matthew Modine and Daryl Hannah, and *'Til There Was You*, starring Sarah Jessica Parker, had only three requirements: a film-viewing room, a large exercise room and a light-filled kitchen.

The interior architecture had to be addressed first. "Although the apartment had been renovated five years earlier, it was done with no respect for the configuration of the rooms," says Himmel. "The mechanical systems



For the Chicago apartment of film producer Ted Tannebaum, architect and decorator Scott Himmel assembled classic French modernist furnishings. ABOVE: In the living room, Poillerat lamps designed in 1947 rest on a 1935 burl walnut console table by Gio Ponti.

## PARISIAN CHIC IN CHICAGO

A FILM PRODUCER'S LAKE SHORE DRIVE  
APARTMENT PROJECTS MODERNIST GLAMOUR

*Interior Architecture and Design by Scott Himmel, AIA/Text by Jeffrey Simpson  
Photography by Scott Frances*

OPPOSITE: "Chicago is very gray, and a white surface would reflect that," says Himmel, who chose blond English sycamore paneling for the living room. "I wanted a matte straw color that glows." The gilt dresser is by Garouste and Bonetti. Old World Weavers fabric on chair at left.



“ALTHOUGH JEAN-MICHEL FRANK IS THE INSPIRATION,” SAYS HIMMEL, “THE FURNITURE RANGES FROM 1750 TO 1950, WITH SOME CURRENT PIECES.”



were in the wrong places, and the windows looked like horizontal slits.” A large service area was moved to create an exercise room facing the courtyard, and the existing kitchen, butler’s pantry and maid’s room were combined into one large kitchen, with doors opening to the dining room and the spectacular lake views beyond.

Himmel then made several, more subtle architectural changes, such as raising the ceilings to ten feet. He also narrowed the door openings of the library and the living and dining rooms, which lie in a row across the front of the apartment. The result is an enfilade of dignified, rather formal spaces more

appropriate to the design of the building, which dates from the twenties.

“In the past the places I lived in were more contemporary, and I was delighted with the sense of tradition that came with all the wood Scott used here,” says Tannebaum, referring to the generous use of paneling—an element that, to Himmel, is as important as the structure. “The process,” the architect says, “goes from creating a plan to realizing it in three dimensions to installing surfaces that reflect and support the plan.”

So that guests would be naturally drawn into the living room, Himmel used the same blond sycamore panel-

ing there as in the entrance hall. Electronic equipment for film viewing is concealed in the ceiling. “I often watch the dailies here when I’m making a picture,” Tannebaum says. Himmel points out that the paneling also gave him a greater ability to play with the space, allowing him to create such elements as the deep embrasures for the windows, which make them appear to be recessed into the walls. He also extended the window frames to the floor, so they seem taller as well.

The overall effect is that of a midcentury Parisian interior. “I was immersed in the work of Jean-Michel Frank when I was in the furniture

ABOVE: The living room doubles as a viewing room, with a projector, screen and speakers concealed in the ceiling. Recessed windows frame a view of Lake Shore Drive. The game chairs, left, are covered in velvet from Brunschwig & Fils. Clarence House fabric on sofa; Bergamo cotton on chair at rear.

OPPOSITE: “I’ve never seen a beautiful Parisian apartment with short doors,” says Himmel, whose dining room doors of sandblasted glass and nickel silver reach ten feet. A Venetian chandelier hangs from the domed ceiling. Aged velum panels line the walls.





