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# Designs on Film: A Century of Hollywood Art Direction

By Cathy Whitlock

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**Designs on Film: A Century of Hollywood Art Direction** By Cathy Whitlock

With hundreds of rare photographs, set sketches, and original renderings showcasing films of every era and genre—many shown here for the very first time—author Cathy Whitlock offers movie fans a backstage pass to 100 years of Hollywood’s most memorable film sets. In the vein of Deborah Landis’s *Dressed: A Century of Hollywood Costume Design*, Whitlock’s *Designs on Film* delivers a fascinating tour through Hollywood’s back lots, including the stories of how numerous movies came to their final on-screen looks—whether by collaboration, conflict, or divine chance. Movie enthusiasts, set designers, and fans of classic and modern Hollywood will thrill for this look behind the scenes of Tinsel Town’s greatest triumphs.

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## **Designs on Film: A Century of Hollywood Art Direction** By Cathy Whitlock Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #431446 in Books
- Published on: 2010-11-30
- Released on: 2010-11-30
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.10" h x 1.20" w x 10.60" l, 4.20 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 400 pages

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

“[Designs on Film] traces the art of building pretend worlds. Starting back in the pre-talkie years, and moving through Hollywood’s golden age and the epic-crazy ‘60s, right up to contemporary Hollywood, the book is packed with insider tidbits about the wildly inventive—and improvisational—business of movie-making.” (Wall Street Journal)

“Whitlock makes a major contribution to movie literature by saluting undersung production designers, set decorators and art directors.” (Los Angeles Times)

“An amazing glimpse into art direction.” (The New Yorker)

“This lush book of pictures and drawings showcases big-screen glamour over the decades, from the opulence of *Cleopatra* to the more modern majesty of *Batman*. (Entertainment Weekly)

“A compendium of images celebrating iconic interiors and architecture....[Whitlock] sifted through decades of archival photographs to assemble this rare glimpse into the world of Hollywood art direction and set design.” (Dwell)

#### From the Back Cover

Who can forget the over-the-top, white-on-white, high-gloss interiors through which Fred Astaire danced in *Top Hat*? The modernist high-rise architecture, inspired by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, in the adaptation of Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead*? The lavish, opulent drawing rooms of Martin Scorsese's *The Age of Innocence*? Through the use of film design—called both art direction and production design in the film industry—movies can transport us to new worlds of luxury, highlight the ornament of the everyday, offer a vision of the future, or evoke the realities of a distant era. In *Designs on Film*, journalist and interior designer Cathy Whitlock illuminates the often undercelebrated role of the production designer in the creation of the most memorable moments in film history. Through a lush collection of rare archival photographs, Whitlock narrates the evolving story of art direction over the course of a century—from the massive Roman architecture of *Ben-Hur* to the infamous Dakota apartment in *Rosemary's Baby* to the digital CGI wonders of *Avatar*'s Pandora.

Drawing on insights from the most prominent Hollywood production designers and the historical knowledge of the venerable Art Directors Guild, Whitlock delves into the detailed process of how sets are imagined, drawn, built, and decorated. *Designs on Film* is the must-have look book for film lovers, movie buffs, and anyone looking to draw interior design inspiration from the constructions and confections of Hollywood. Whitlock lifts the curtain on movie magic and celebrates the many ways in which art direction and set design allow us to lose ourselves in the diverse worlds showcased on the big screen.

#### About the Author

Cathy Whitlock is an interior designer, journalist, and the author of *Re-de-sign*. She is a contributing writer for *Traditional Home* and *The Huffington Post* and her design, film, lifestyle, and celebrity profiles have

appeared in *American Airlines Celebrated Living*, *Architectural Digest*, *Glamour* (UK), and *Veranda* magazine, among others. Her blog, *Cinema Style*, chronicles the world of art direction in film. She lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Art Directors Guild is the successor to several organizations, the earliest formed in 1924 in Hollywood. The Guild is both a professional society and a labor organization, recognized as IATSE Local 800. Its 2,000 members practice the art-crafts of: production design, art direction, illustration, set design, model making, graphic design, matte art, scenic art, and title art. Thomas A. Walsh, a narrative designer for film, television, and the Broadway stage, has served as the Guild's president since 2002.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Errol Garvin:**

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important for all of us. The book *Designs on Film: A Century of Hollywood Art Direction* had been making you to know about other knowledge and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The guide *Designs on Film: A Century of Hollywood Art Direction* is not only giving you more new information but also to be your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your e-book. Try to make relationship with the book *Designs on Film: A Century of Hollywood Art Direction*. You never feel lose out for everything if you read some books.

#### **John Tovar:**

This *Designs on Film: A Century of Hollywood Art Direction* book is not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is actually information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. That *Designs on Film: A Century of Hollywood Art Direction* without we realize teach the one who examining it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't be worry *Designs on Film: A Century of Hollywood Art Direction* can bring when you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even telephone. This *Designs on Film: A Century of Hollywood Art Direction* having excellent arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

#### **William Quesada:**

The feeling that you get from *Designs on Film: A Century of Hollywood Art Direction* could be the more deep you digging the information that hide within the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to know but *Designs on Film: A Century of Hollywood Art Direction* giving you buzz feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in specific way that can be understood simply by anyone who read this because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go to you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this particular *Designs on*

Film: A Century of Hollywood Art Direction instantly.

**Debbie Gray:**

The guide with title Designs on Film: A Century of Hollywood Art Direction has a lot of information that you can learn it. You can get a lot of benefit after read this book. This particular book exist new expertise the information that exist in this reserve represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to yo7u to know how the improvement of the world. That book will bring you in new era of the globalization. You can read the e-book on your smart phone, so you can read that anywhere you want.

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