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Book News

A Journey through American Art Deco

Architecture, Design, and Cinema in the Twenties and Thirties

Giovanna Franci, Rosella Mangaroni, and Esther Zago
Photographs by Federico Zignani

"Understanding architecture also means understanding the context in which it came into being. American Art Deco is a planet (on which Flash Gordon lived). Rediscovering the people of this planet, from tap dancers to Carole Lombard to Philip Marlowe, is just as exciting as rediscovering its splendid skyscrapers."—**Umberto Eco**

"*A Journey through American Art Deco* is a moving and nostalgic vision of a crucial episode in American cinema, architecture, and design. Something fundamental in the United States of the nineteen twenties and thirties is eloquently expounded by Franci, Mangaroni, and Zago, while the photographs by Federico Zignani masterfully evoke a bygone splendor."—**Harold Bloom**, Yale University

"Organized as a pilgrimage and a kind of travelogue, much in the style of those RKO newsreels of the thirties, *A Journey through American Art Deco* manages to entertain, inform, and interpret all at the same time. Its style is as arch as its subject matter, but its purpose is serious: to save the remains of Art Deco that are threatened by urban renewal all over the United States."—**Hayden White**, University of California and Stanford University

Beginning with the dreams of Hollywood and ending in its lobbies and boulevards, *A Journey through American Art Deco* passes through a series of itineraries that display the most interesting examples of Art Deco, from Chicago to New York, from Denver to Phoenix, from Seattle to Los Angeles and Miami Beach.

Giovanna Franci is professor of English literature at the University of Bologna. **Rosella Mangaroni** lives in Bologna, where she teaches and writes extensively on comparative literature. **Esther Zago** teaches in the Honors Program at the University of Colorado at Boulder. **Federico Zignani** works as a photographer in Los Angeles and Italy. They previously collaborated on *The Other Shore of Byzantium, or the Imagination of America*.

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