

DAVID HICKS
by Ashley Hicks

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Painting, Spanierman Modern



We are delighted to present the third collection of David Hicks designs, edited by his son, Ashley Hicks. This collection of prints and weaves features familiar and new designs in an exciting palette of fresh, vibrant colors, which prove what we already knew, that David Hicks designs are timeless.

Below, we have excerpted some interesting notes from the New York Times obituary of April 2, 1998, which gives you an insight into David Hicks's character, reputation, design work and work ethic. Known for his love of graphic color combinations as well as for a temperament that veered between disarming charm and apologetic rage, Mr. Hicks was the most famous decorator of his day. Late in life he became celebrated for designing the geometrically precise gardens at The Grove, which has been the subject of numerous articles in major design magazines over the last decade. He was also an anomaly; an English decorator who loathed the Masterpiece Theater school of English decoration.

"He killed every flower in his soul," said Ming Hogg, editor of trend-setting British magazine *The World of Interiors*, referring to the designer's hatred of chintz. "His was a rigorous, very tailored look. So much of it was about control. There wasn't a wrinkle or crease anywhere."

"My greatest contribution as an interior designer has been to show people how to use bold color mixtures, how to use patterned carpets, how to light rooms and how to mix old with new," he wrote in "David Hicks on Living – with Taste" (1968), one of nine practical design books bearing his byline. Though Mr. Hicks wrote that his eye-popping color schemes were Victorian in spirit – a typical room formula was maroon walls, scarlet curtains, purple carpet, vermillion sofa, cherry-red chairs and shocking pink cushions – one of the hallmarks of his use of color was contemporary in inspiration. According to his wife, "Lady Pamela", high-gloss brown walls entered his professional vocabulary after she began throwing glasses of Coca-Cola at him during moments of marital discord.

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