

house beautiful

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Easing into **Summer**

Rooms
to Relax in

Gardening
by the Sea

Outdoor
Table Settings



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Baldwin's basics

Billy Baldwin relied upon a group of classic furniture pieces over his forty-year career. Many are now being reproduced



Baltimore-born Billy Baldwin (ABOVE) in his Manhattan studio.



furniture pieces. After the manufacturer LCS folded, Billy Baldwin Studio brought the designs back into production and now has these pieces in the original showroom. There are three sofas, an ottoman and a slipper chair; five tables including a two-tiered night-

stand and an étagère available in brushed steel, brushed brass and oak. Because Baldwin believed that too many exposed chair and table legs made a room "restless," all metal supports are slim, and all seating has a legless look. (Prices start at \$1,500 for an oak end table.)

Rooms that Baldwin decorated using such pieces have aged extremely well. The Manhattan apartment of Mrs. Lee Eastman, for one, has gained only acces-

sories since Baldwin planned it 21 years ago around a collection of Abstract Expressionist paintings. "The rooms are absolutely timeless," she says. ■



for seating. Narrow metal frames on bookshelf (which Baldwin called "my most enduring design") and tables are meant to be unobtrusive.

Recent reissues of Baldwin upholstery include the designer's signature slipper chair, an ottoman with its top pillow askew and two sofas. Baldwin preferred grasscloth, blue denim and cotton

BY EVE M. KAHN

"Furniture should blend into the background like foliage," said interior designer Billy Baldwin. With plain but deep-seated upholstery and sturdy metal-framed surfaces for art, a room would "grow slowly to maturity" and would gracefully accept "the pleasant memorabilia of living."

When Baldwin retired in 1973 after four decades of designing for the likes of Cole Porter and William and Babe Paley, he kept a hand in the field by devising a line of favorite

