‘So many decorators just decorate. Paxton and created.’

LOYD TAYLOR
AND MORE MEN
YOU SHOULD KNOW
A Dallas couple’s high-design collection on sale

Sonny Burt and Robert Butler were Dallas collectors, and what a collection they had. Together for more than four decades, Burt and Butler collected aggressively from the 1980s through the early 2000s. It all started when they purchased a work on paper titled Head by Alexander Calder in 1951 for $75, and culminated in their owning more than 550 artworks created by more than 300 artists. (They include Christo, Jenny Holzer and Julian Schnabel.) Butler died in 2007, and Burt last fall. FD wrote about the couple’s art legacy in its March 2014 issue when the men’s estate was finally settled. Many of the pieces are viewable now in a tribute exhibition and sale at Talley Dunn Gallery titled SELECTIONS FROM THE LEGENDARY COLLECTION OF SONNY BURT AND BOB BUTLER. The majority of the pieces they collected came from Texas artists; the show includes works by John Alexander, David Bates, Pamela Nelson, Trish Nickell and Rusty Scruby, among many others. Through October 18 at Talley Dunn Gallery, 5020 Trucy St., Dallas, 214-521-9898, talleydunn.com.

—Michael Granberry

HILL COUNTRY HOUSES: Inspired Living in a Legendary Texas Landscape By Cyndy Severson, $50, Monacelli Press

I will never forget my first foray into the hills — those divine ups and downs anchored by San Antonio and Austin — and the charms therein. The light, the air, the aromas. I go there often in my mind, and now I can go inside some of the best houses there just by poring over the 200-plus pages of this book. Stunning photographs. Strong graphic design. And the residences! They are organized by genre, including Spanish colonial, northern European and the five forward-thinking ones in my favorite chapter, Modernists & Renegades. The author is a Texas native, and she celebrates the region’s diversity — haciendas, Victorians, O’Neil Fords — instead of its stereotypes. No cactus-y clichés here. Cyndy Severson will sign books on October 16 at the Robert Allen/Beacon Hill showroom in Dallas, 1025 N. Stemmons Fwy., Suite 747, 214-741-5454.


DALLAS MODERN By the Dallas Architecture Forum, $60, Visual Profile Books

You cannot love straight lines and cerebral furnishings — or live in Dallas at all — and not own this book. It is a long-overdue compilation of definitive residences, many known by just the last names of their first inhabitants: the Lipshy, the Beck, the Rachofsky. But the monograph is also a 50-year swing through local modernism all the way up to 2012, which makes it much more exciting than a dusty look back. The houses are game-changers, tangible biographies of the best last names in the business: architects the likes of Meyer, Oglesby, Cunningham, Morrison, Wommack, Welch and Levy; top-drawer interior designers Bodron, Cadwallader, Sutherland, Summers and more. It is 20 residences in all, many presented with floor plans, all sewn up with elegant essays by museum directors Maxwell Anderson and Jeremy Strick and architect Mark Gunderson. Bravo, Dallas Architecture Forum: The city needed this. Jeremy Strick will sign books on November 8 at the Nasher Sculpture Center. Information dallasarchitectureforum.org

Two new books show off high-style regional houses. ROB BRINKLEY turns the pages