

GROSFELD HOUSE

Center table in cream lacquered wood
and mirrored glass
raised on Lucite columns.
New York, c. 1940.

Measurements

Height: 30"
Length: 60"
Width: 40"

Price

\$12,500.



Although Lucite had been developed and used for industrial purposes earlier, it was not until the late 1930's that this innovative material found applications in furniture design. For the three years from 1939 until 1941, the firm of Grosfeld House in New York produced examples of clear molded plastic in the form of swag-back side chairs, Regency-style consoles and faux button-tufted headboards. Frequently the designs combined Lucite with other fashionable materials of the day, such as mirrored glass and parchment-colored lacquer. The designs often drew on neoclassical motifs, such as fluted columns, lotus flowers and acanthus leaves and, by making the most of the unexpected transparency of this hard, moldable material, even made reference to themes of fantasy, sexuality and dislocation being put forth by the Surrealists in Paris.

Tastemakers such as Elsie de Wolfe and Syrie Maugham were quick to seize upon these models for their wit and sophistication and used them to memorable effect in their interiors.