



## *Banking on Beauty*

by Adam Arenson

**Millard Sheets and Midcentury  
Commercial Architecture  
in California**

University of Texas Press, 2018

This enchanting story that celebrates the relationship and achievements of an artist, Millard Sheets, and his patron, Howard Ahmanson, originated in the mind of a child, a fantasy engendered by a picture on a building, a mosaic mural on a Home Savings branch in La Mesa, California.

From the author, Adam Arenson, from his Introduction: "The book chronicles the business of art production and the history of business arts patronage, joining a new trend in histories of the intertwined concerns of art, design, business, politics, urban and suburban planning, and popular culture in postwar America. The Home Savings commissions shaped the corporate and cultural landscapes of Southern California. The time has come to tell their history, to demonstrate their significance, and to argue for their preservation -- before it is too late."



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