

**Aesthetic Surgery****Ed. Dr Angelika Taschen****(Taschen, £29.99)**

This book, admittedly, is not for the faint-hearted, but anyone with an interest in plastic surgery and body modification should unfold those pages to read the history of aesthetic surgery (including unpublished medical photos), surgery in movies, an appreciation of Ivo Pitanguy, 'the Michaelangelo of the scalpel', interviews with the world's most famous aesthetic surgeons, before and after photos of transformed body parts, from the top of the head to the tips of the toes, caricatures and jokes involving plastic surgery, and a bibliography including links to cosmetic surgery websites.

We all have a fascination for body transformations — whether we browse through the tabloids wondering which celeb has had what done (particularly in



Hollywood, where it is often denied, or put down to some obscure diet or yoga routine) or looking at the botched boob jobs, or whether we secretly crave going under the knife ourselves (not we natural beauties, of course — but we'll let

you know in thirty years' time!).

This book explores all the ins and outs of body sculpturing, focusing on the artistry of aesthetic surgery (which aims to make you look 'refreshed', rather than younger) and the extremes to which people go to 'improve' their looks, from liposuction to implants. And as *Aesthetic Surgery* is published by Taschen, it is exquisitely formed and has a beautiful, glossy cover — just like the most perfect facelift. Ouch!

J.B.