

# VISIONS OF BEAUTY

**COFFEE TABLE**

Once the shock value of Angelika Taschen's comprehensive survey, **Aesthetic Surgery** (Taschen), wears off, you'll find it a highly readable, fascinating exploration of what has become an ineluctable fact of global culture: surgical transformation. While Hollywood naturally looms large both on and off the screen, the coffee-table-size tome excels in its tales of plastic pioneers, silicon humor, horror stories, knife junkies and racial preferences (i.e., the Brazilian butt, Iranian nose, American breast and Japanese eyelid). What's more, the 440-pager includes interviews with some of the world's best knife wielders, including Beverly Hills' Gary J. Alter and Rio's Ivo Pitanguy (don't worry, they didn't mention names) ... Physical