

ARTBOOK

CELESTIAL SEASONINGS

Tycho Brahe's vision of the cosmos, as rendered by Andreas Cellarius in 1660.

heavenly bodies

Star maps that chart a course for the ages.

Atlas himself might feel a slight twinge in lifting the **Harmonia Macrocosmica**, an enormous, gorgeous reproduction of the 1660 atlas of the heavens created by the Dutch-German cosmographer Andreas Cellarius (Taschen, \$125). At 21 by 12.6 inches, its proportions are roughly those of a large end table. But you'll probably want to set it on a standing pedestal, the better to pore over the 29 double-page plates, depicting in bold colors and elegant draftsmanship the competing views of the master astronomers, from Ptolemy to Tycho Brahe to Copernicus. After lingering over Ptolemy's obsolete visions (complete with the four basic elements—earth, water, fire, and air), turning the heavy pages to reveal Copernicus's radical, nearly perfect rendering of the universe just might evoke an audible gasp. Here, finally, is our familiar home: a beneficent solar disk at the center, radiating warmth into and beyond the Earth, which looks like a modern desktop globe and orbits the Sun in views representing the four seasons. *Harmonia*, indeed.—ANDREW LONG *a&d* >148

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