

DESIGN & DECORATING

THAT'S DEBATABLE

Have Tiffany Lamps Shed Their Fern-Bar Stigma?

YES

NO

TIFFANY LITE / DECENT REPRODUCTIONS



Dale Tiffany TT60024 Leilani Antique Brass Table Lamp, \$380, daletiffanylightinglights.com



Tiffany 1021 Table Lamp, \$65, lightology.com



Tiffany Style Stained Glass Lamp, \$550, chairish.com



CHEEP TRICK
Two crafted birds are perched on this Tiffany knockoff (via Wayfair) in comedian Catherine Cohen's New York apartment.

WITH THE future uncertain and the present unpleasant, San Francisco interior designer Elizabeth Cooper has taken comfort in a curio from the past: the scalloped Tiffany lamp—yet to be authenticated—she inherited from her grandmother. “The light has a very positive, nostalgic association,” said Ms. Cooper, who’s also been fielding client requests for the vintage fixtures. “They’re resonating with people right now,” she said. Corroborating her observation: Online marketplace 1stdibs reports sales of Tiffany-style lamps have spiked over 50% this spring vs. last.

Eliza Harris, creative director of American textile and wallpaper brand Sister Parish and great granddaughter of its namesake founder, cites the lamps as a marker of the booming “grandmillennial” aesthetic, which finds under-40 Americans intermingling storied décor with mass-market modernism. “A grandmillennial might place a stained glass light on top of a Lucite table from West Elm that’s much less expensive or a Saarinen table from a totally different time period,” she said.

To showcase its showiness, Ms. Cooper put her own Tiffany lamp in the muted context of a guest bedroom. Set on a simple, antique *étagère* alongside bed linens in plain, white cotton percale, the stained-glass fixture, she said, “is like a piece of jewelry.”

STAINED-GLASS lamps grew as common as weeds in the 1970s and ’80s. Drafted to convey newly trendy “nostalgia” in fern bars like the “Cheers” set and scores of TGI Friday’s, they became ubiquitous clichés. New York designer Rudy Saunders declares the lamps “hopelessly dated,” rooting your décor in the 19th century of their invention. “They just don’t transcend to timeless, classical design, because looking at one takes you right to that Arts & Crafts style.”

The fixtures’ intricate glass mosaics and bases depicting flora and fauna steal focus “within most decorating styles, other than Victorian,” said Houston interior designer Nina Magon. And even Ms. Cooper admits her lamp doesn’t work as a reading light; the opaque colored glass blocks all but the weakest glow.

Los Angeles designer Kevin Isbell can’t abide reproductions of the famous designs. Lighting options of all sorts are so varied now, he said, “you don’t need to resort to a watered-down version of someone else’s work. If you can’t cough up the seven-plus figure to acquire an authentic Tiffany, I would suggest you move along.” Louis Comfort Tiffany might concur: Legend has it he personally oversaw quality control at his factory in Queens, N.Y., said Bill Rau, owner of M.S. Rau antiques. If he found a fixture sub par, he smashed it with a lead pipe. —Rachel Wolfe



THE REAL THING
Tiffany Studios Laburnum Glass Lamp, \$798,000, M.S. Rau (888) 557-2406

CHINASA COOPER/APARTMENT THERAPY (DESK)

FAST FIVE

Iced Tea Not Included

Rocking on the porch seems rather 1930s, but the virus has pushed us outdoors. Here, modern seats to update the sway.



TOOU Outo Rocking Chair, \$212, 2modern.com



Houe Paon Rocking Chair, \$598, authentek.com



Egg Designs Powder Coated Wire Mesh Outdoor Rocking Chair, \$1,220, 1stdibs.com



1966 Single Rocker, \$2,031, knoll.com



Lollygagger Rocker, \$725, lollidesigns.com



F. MARTIN RAMINI/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (FLOWERS)

Sure, It Can Be Arranged

Pandemic-paralyzed florists have pivoted—shipping folks mega-boxes of stems with build-your-own-bouquet videos

EVENT FLORISTS had to pivot or perish this spring, as wedding and gala plans succumbed to the pandemic and their “inessential” studios closed. “Within three weeks, all 2020 jobs were canceled or moved to 2021,” said New York floral designer Lewis Miller of his blighted industry.

For his and other elite New York firms, the answer has been shipping flower boxes directly from Dutch suppliers to less gilded Americans. The packages of 50 to 100 loose stems—enough for several bouquets—include wholesale-only flowers such as garden roses. The twist: Though the blooms are unarranged, purchasers get access to online videos in which the florists show how to build them into bouquets.

Tin Can Studios’ No 7. Bloom Box, available through July 25 (\$198, tincanstudiosbk.com), favors a peach-pink palette. Founder Ingrid Carozzi’s video demos a loose, painterly arrangement “recipe” and urges her “students” to email photos of their bouquets for her feedback.

East Olivia, known for using dried and dyed blooms such as rainbow-colored baby’s breath, gives you access to its instructional videos and Pinterest board. Its Flower Therapy Box #7, available through July 23 (\$225, eastolivia.com), features varieties including Golden Mustard Roses and Queensland Frill Tulips. “I like to find



BEFORE AND AFTER From top: Tin Can Studios’ Bloom Box; resulting bouquets using half the delivered flowers.

things that are interesting and maybe a little weird,” said founder Kelsea Olivia.

The Lewis Miller Flower Flash Box Summer Blues Edition, available July 18-24 (from \$255, lewismillerdesign.com), is modeled after Mr. Miller’s Flower Flash installations—masses of blooms spilling out of New York public trash cans and obsolete phone booths, and the accompanying tutorials are deliberately straightforward and simple. “We’re not going to make your Flemish masterpiece with this video,” he added. —Catherine Dash