

THE BEST

Tabletop . Rugs . Things We Love



buzz

Hats Off

The true power of light lies in how you share it. Fabric lampshades awash in artful patterns and prints are suddenly everywhere, adding charm and personality to any room like only a chapeau can. >>

PHOTOGRAPHER ANNIE SCHLECHTER; STYLIST MELISSA COLGAN; WALLCOVERING CARLBERGS TRAD BY STARK; FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES

Our Picks

From hot artists like Wayne Pate and Martyn Thompson to top decorators to our dot-com faves—everyone's in on the shade craze.



Cerulean Prisms. Cotton. 16" Dia. \$118. anthropologie.com



Ballets Russes. In Yellow. Hand-painted on rice paper. 14" Dia. \$650. voutsas.com



Stone Plume Hand-Marbled. In Dark Iris. Silk. 12" Dia. \$450. ruleofthreestudio.com



Geo Zipper Drum. In Orange and White. 16" Dia. \$69. shadesoflight.com



Roman Skies. In Off-White. Hand-painted on paper. 16" Dia. \$250. waynepate.com



Small Tie-Dyed. Silk. 12" Dia. \$390. xeno-mania.com



Voile. Cotton. 18" Dia. \$450. bunnywilliamshome.com



Bongo Print. In Yellow. Cotton. 10" Dia. \$511. portaromana.co.uk



English Garden Drum. In Dusty Blue. By Alethea and Ruth. 8" Dia. From \$45. minted.com



Lamp Shade Hide Blue. Paper. 16" Dia. \$45. robertarollerrabbit.com



Tangier Multi Tangelo. Linen. 22" Dia. From \$425. kathrynirelandshop.com



Gathered Bedwyn. In Neutral Wicker. Cotton. 6" Dia. \$125. fermoie.com



Drippy. Cotton. By Martyn Thompson Studio. 17" Dia. \$1,250. studiovandenakker.com



Pavita. Silk. 20" Dia. \$500. irvingandmorrison.com

Clip On (and On)

The easiest shade upgrade we've spotted yet: Ikea's slide-on ornaments in painted steel, which are a steal!

Edsvalla and Skålviken. \$7 for 10. ikea-usa.com



Clip art for your lamps!

LAMPSHADES 101



Love Shades? Start Here!

Interior designer Lauren Liess, author of *Habitat: The Field Guide to Decorating* (Harry N. Abrams), gets specific on all things shady.

Master the Shapes

BELL "If you want a classic 'decorator' look with a graceful sensibility, go for this shade, which lends itself well to traditional spaces. It works on all kinds of lamps, but I love it on a ginger jar."

DRUM "The drum is versatile enough for both modern and traditional interiors and almost all lamp bases. Its clean lines can help make a dated lamp seem *now*."

OVAL "Useful in smaller rooms, an oval shade should be used with flatter lamps that have a distinct front and back with sides. It feels sophisticated."

PLEATED "An old-guard designers' staple. Pleated shades—with their dress-maker details—make a space feel 'decorated' and bring a bit of femininity to a room. They work best on more traditional lamps."

SQUARE OR RECTANGULAR "These give off a modern vibe and make a strong statement. They're best used on lamps that are square or rectangular. Small, square candelabra-size shades look sharp on sconces."

TAPERED DRUM "I find these work well for both contemporary and classic interiors. They mesh particularly well with taller, chunkier lamps, genie bottles, and round or nearly spherical versions."

Do the Math

THE SHADE-TO-LAMP FORMULA "A lampshade should be roughly two-fifths of the total height of the full lamp, including the shade."

THE EXCEPTION "There's *always* an exception! Retro styles often play with scale by varying the shade size, so take a cue from them and have some fun with proportions. For example, tall shades often work with squat, large-diameter lamps."

Choose a Material

PAPER "Pleasing to the eye, paper shades create a casual, relaxed mood. They're a lightweight hanging-fixture favorite."

FABRIC "So versatile! You can use this with any color or pattern, on almost any type of lamp. Linen is laid-back; silk has a formal feel."

METAL "Pros of a metal shade: It's great for directional lighting, and it casts a sharp beam (think task lamps). Cons: It can become hot to the touch—avoid in nurseries!—and feels a bit like an interrogation room."

GLASS "In opaque white, glass offers a throwback, vintage look that's ideal for bathrooms and kitchens. Clear versions are pretty and can add a nice twinkle but are—obviously—difficult to look at directly, so keep above eye level."

How to Get the Look

Designers reveal the stories behind some of their dreamiest lampshade moments.



Ellen Niven

"I love Pierre Frey's Le Manach Balmoral and, inspired by French bedrooms, I used it all over. Custom-covered shades add so much."



Sara Gilbane

"I matched the colors from a piece of art to a small- to medium-scale print for the shades. Pleating puts the focus on the hues, not the pattern."



Tom Scheerer

"Zuber wallpaper is too expensive to not use every square inch of it, so we made shades from leftover scraps. They lend a surrealist touch."



Michael S. Smith

"In one of my favorite master bedrooms, this patterned shade adds dimension and an unexpected wit while staying traditional."

PHOTOGRAPHERS SIMON WATSON (NIVEN INTERIOR); ZACH DESART (GILBANE INTERIOR); FRANCESCO LAGNESE (SCHEERER INTERIOR); LISA ROMERIN/OTTO (SMITH INTERIOR)