



Style

- The Pink Lotus lamp is Art Nouveau in style. Curved, flowing lines are a typical Art Nouveau characteristic, and these can be seen in the use of line in the flowers and leaves on the shade. This makes this lamp look elegant and graceful.
- The Pink Lotus lamp also uses organic forms which is another stereotypical trait of an Art Nouveau design. This can be seen in the use of the image of the lotus flower, tree trunk like stem and lily pad base. This gives the lamp a naturalistic theme, creating a calming mood & atmosphere.

•The overall style of the lamp is highly decorative. It features highly detailed stained glass artwork made with hundreds of individual pieces, multiple flowers to enclose bulbs, and an enamelled mosaic pattern base. The detail in this piece makes it decadent and decorative, perfect for a centre piece in a lavish home.

Imagery / Surface Decoration / Inspiration

- The lotus flower seen in the shade of the lamp was used to add an exotic look to it as the lotus flower originates from far Eastern countries.
- Tulip flowers are seen in the form around the bulbs. By using different types of flowers, this emphasises their importance to the design, making the design appear feminine and elegant.
- The tree trunk seen in the stem adds texture to the otherwise smooth lamp, incorporating another technique and further enhancing the natural theme. This would add to the amount of craftsmanship used to create it, further increasing the value and price of the lamp.
- The naturalistic theme is further enhanced through the use of leaves on the shade and base. This gives the lamp an organic feel, like bringing nature into the home.
- The influence of water can be seen in the use of colour in the leaves in the shade because lotus flowers natural habitat is ponds and open water. This is shown by a dotted, translucent pattern which creates a watery, reflective surface mimicking the real life reflective surface of water.
- The curved strands protruding from the stem to the shade are reminiscent of an umbrella structure. This could relate to the canopy of trees, further emphasising the theme of nature as well as helping Tiffany to create the base structure of the shade.

Louis Comfort Tiffany, “Pink Lotus Lamp”, 1905, 34 ins tall x 28 ins diameter (86.4 x 71.1cm)

Bronze & Enamel Base with Glass & Leaded Shade

Function

- The function of the lamp is to provide a source of light. It fulfils its function well due to featuring an open top shade. The wide diameter of the shade allows sufficient light to be emitted.
- Use of coloured glass allows the light to come through the shade. This also emphasises the various shades of pink and green that have been used in the glass, making it decorative as well as functional.
- The lamp features several bulbs. These are cleverly enclosed by the petals of small tulip shaped flowers situated near the top of the shade. Having several bulbs ensures that the lamp emits sufficient light, whilst the flowers enclosing them are a nice design feature.
- As well as providing a light source, the lamp can also act as an ornament. It is a highly decorative piece due to featuring bright colours and repeated pattern through the shapes of the petals and leaves. Visual impact is achieved through strong use of colour and pattern. The stem and base are also carved into, like a sculpture.
- The lamp creates an ambient atmosphere as the use of coloured glass creates a soft glow. Warm pinks and peach colours create a warm atmosphere, whilst the imagery creates a naturalistic atmosphere.

Fitness for Purpose

- At over 86cm tall, this is an extremely large lamp, meaning it would be heavy and possibly cumbersome to move.
- The lamp features a very large shade which provides a suitable light source. Its scale also draws attention as a focal point in a room, further emphasised by the attractive, bright colours.
- The lamp features a thin stem which does not look capable of supporting such a large shade. However, its material of bronze rectifies this, giving the stem strength and stability to support the large, heavy shade. The bronze material of the base does not conduct heat well, meaning it would not get too hot from the heat of the bulbs.
- The large, wide base helps support the shade as it distributes the weight across a wider surface area. A heavy base is needed to support the weight of the glass used in the shade. This prevents the shade from easily toppling over, especially important as the shade is made of glass.
- The spherical form of the shade means the light is directed out the bottom, preventing the light from flooding the room making it fit for the purpose of an ambient lamp or reading lamp.

Materials

- Glass - Hand cut glass has been used for the lamp’s shade. It is a very time consuming process to select and construct the glass parts. The mosaic shade pattern, formed of eight lotus flowers, was created from hundreds of pieces of individually hand-crafted glass. Glass is a fragile material that could be easily smashed, but as it allows light to come through, this makes it a suitable material to use in a lamp. It also comes in variety of colours, so these can be selected to suit the theme. Glass can be manipulated into shapes by heating it up, making it very versatile. It is an inexpensive material and easy to source.
- Lead - Used between the glass panels, lead acts as a strong bonding agent. The use of lead contributes towards the stained glass effect, with the dark colour creating separation between the coloured panels, especially when the light is switched on.
- Bronze - The lamp features a bronze base, which does not conduct heat well so is a good choice for the base because it will not heat up too much from the heat of the bulb. It is, however, strong and sturdy, yet inexpensive. Bronze can be cast in a mould to achieve the desired shape making it a versatile material to use.
- Enamel - The enamel mosaic base creates a realistic appearance of leaves, which works well with the theme. Enamelled glass is created using powdered glass, which is then fired to fuse it together. It can produce brilliant and long-lasting colours, and be transparent, translucent or opaque. Generally the desired colours only appear when the piece is fired, so it is difficult to tell which colour it will be at the production stage.

Techniques & Technology

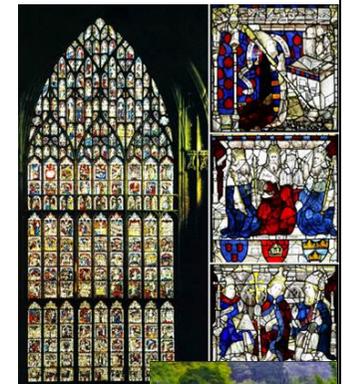
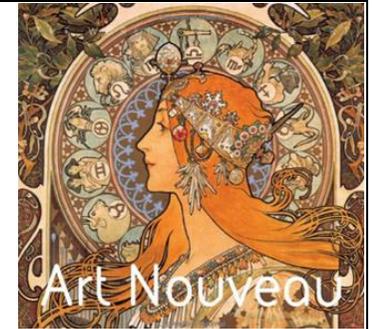
- Pattern cutting – by using a paper pattern to inform cut glass shapes for the shade, this allowed Tiffany to create elaborate and detailed pieces unlike anything that had been seen before. Working to a pattern allowed him to break down his elaborate ideas into basic shapes making his vision a reality.
- Favrite Glass – a technique created and trademarked by Tiffany. Favrite glass is produced by exposing molten glass to a series of vapours and metallic oxides that infuse it with radiant colours and iridescence. This allowed him to achieve the vibrant pinks of the shade and dotted green pattern of the leaves, helping to achieve visual impact.
- Soldering – each piece of glass on the shade was wrapped in copper foil and soldered together to create the overall structure. This soldering adds strength and stability to the shade ensuring there are no loose pieces allowing the design to last for hundreds of years.
- Casting – the bronze base was created using a mould. Molten bronze would be poured into the mould and left to set. This would allow Tiffany to create the desired shape of a tree without wasting materials from sculpting. He could also create the bark like texture in the mould, which would also allow Tiffany to recreate a similar stem from the same mould for future lamps.

<p>Working Methods</p> <p>General Information on the creation of the shade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First a wooden model of the Tiffany lampshade would have been carved, covered in glue, then paper or linen laid over it. The design would then have been drawn onto the paper / linen, the lines representing each small piece of coloured glass to create the design. Notation would have been added to specify the colour of each piece. • When the drawing out of the design was complete, the paper / linen would have been removed from the wooden model and cut along selected lines so it lays flat and becomes a two dimensional pattern. • The glass would then have been laid over the pattern and traced, then the pieces would have been cut and ground to their correct shape. • The design would then have been built up by applying adhesive wax to the wooden model and pressing each glass piece into it, following the reference plan. • Once the whole lampshade was assembled, the glass pieces would have been removed individually, and edged with copper foil and soldered back in place. • The whole thing would then have been heated to melt the wax to allow the lampshade to be removed, and for the inner edges to be soldered. 		<p>Target Market / Audience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wealthy – Tiffany lamps were in a high price bracket, costing hundreds of dollars at the time, which a limited number of people could afford. The extreme craftsmanship of stained glass, casting, carving, enamelling, etc., increased the retail price meaning the elite New Yorker's were his primary target market. Objects from New York's Tiffany Studios were expensive even at the time. In the 1900s a Tiffany glass lamp could set you back over \$700 – roughly the annual income of an average worker. • Interest in nature – the use of natural, organic forms across the entire design would appeal to those who have an interest in nature, particularly those who are well travelled as the exotic lotus flower originates from far Eastern countries. • People with extravagant taste – the lamp is extremely large and would be a focal point in any room. Therefore the buyer's own personal taste would need to reflect the large, bold nature of the design. The repeated organic shapes create a stained glass appearance making the lamp look extravagant and grand, appealing to the target market of affluent, wealthy people. 		<p>Aesthetics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aesthetically, Tiffany has designed a very pretty and feminine lamp. This is due to the colours used and the floral imagery featured in the design of the lamp. • It is a very decorative piece, which demonstrates how much Tiffany has considered its aesthetics. The shade in particular, with lotus flowers around it in vibrant shades of pink and green, is very aesthetically pleasing. • The bulbs are encased by 8 tulips, made up with delicate petals. Aesthetically, this looks very good, especially with the open top to the lamp. It also helps to diffuse the light nicely and disguises the bulbs well. • The stem and base show consideration of aesthetics also, with the textured 'bark' stem and the base resembling leaves, made up with hundreds of tiny mosaic pieces of enamel. These decorative features are in keeping with the naturalistic theme. 			
<p>Visual Elements</p>							
<p>Shape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The flowers are made up of rounded, organic shapes, oval in nature. These shapes are reminiscent of petals, creating a realistic image of a lotus flower. This ensures it is clear what the lamp is based on as its organic shapes link to the naturalistic theme of the lamp of flowers and leaves. • The silhouette created by the shade itself also features a rounded organic shape, reminiscent of the shape of a lotus flower, further emphasising the imagery used in the lamp. • The shapes contained within the mosaic pattern in the base are also organic in nature, but the vein like structure of the base appears geometric, contrasting with the more curved shapes of the shade. Each section in the mosaic base is a small rectangular / triangular shape which, when aligned next to each other, creates a realistic impression of veins in a leaf. 		<p>Colour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green - Cold colour creates contrast with warm colours, creating visual impact. Receding colour meaning the background of leaves does not overpower the focal point of the lotus flower. Colour associated with nature which emphasises the naturalistic theme of the lamp. • Orange - Inner flower bulbs, not as bright as the pinks so do not distract from the focal point of the lotus flowers on the shade. Warm colour giving a warm glowing light to the shade, fulfilling its function of providing ambient lighting. • Bronze Stem - A metallic colour making the lamp appear more luxurious and expensive. Similar colour to brown, realistic representation of the colour of bark. • Pink & Red - Warm colours create a warm, welcoming glow from the lamp, fulfilling its function of providing ambient lighting. The intense pink creates an exotic look which ties in with the exotic nature of the lotus flower being from Eastern countries. The most intense colour on the lampshade which draws your eye to it, creating a focal point, especially in contrast to the cold green background. 		<p>Line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline - created by lead, this holds the pieces together and gives the shape of the flowers and leaves definition. • Curved organic lines – stereotypical of the Art Nouveau movement, these lines create a graceful appearance to the organic nature of the imagery and leads your eye round the stained glass pattern. • Detail lines – on the base, these lines create a vein-like pattern mimicking a real life leaf adding to the naturalistic appearance of the imagery. • Line of stem – thin and narrow adding fragility to the lamp as the large shade is supported by a thin stem. • Texture lines – rough textural lines of the stem creates an appearance of wood, as if the stem resembles a tree trunk further emphasising the naturalistic theme of the lamp. • Line of branch-like structure – at the top the shade, curved lines extend from the stem like branches of a tree, flowing down to meet the stained glass pattern helping draw your eye to this area. This also acts as a frame to hold the structure of the lamp to the base. 		<p>Visual Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The very large scale of the lamp creates visual impact, as it is very striking and would dominate a room. • The feminine colours used in the shade create visual impact, due to being bright and eye-catching. Use of opposite shades of pinks and greens help create visual impact through use of contrasting colours. • The oversized shade is created by a collection of small scale pieces of glass. This adds intricacy and detail to the design increasing its visual impact through the craftsmanship required to solder all the small pieces into a stained glass artwork. • The thin stem contrasts with the large shade creating drama and visual impact. Contrast is created in the base through the use of bronze against the coloured enamel, which also creates visual impact. 	
<p>Texture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texture of petals - Smooth from the surface texture of the glass. The gradient adds to the smooth silky appearance, reminiscent of the smooth texture of a real life petal from a flower. • Texture of stem - The long thin lines carved in to the stem create a rough, bumpy texture. They are carved and etched to resemble the real life texture of bark. • Texture of base - Fragmented and mosaic in appearance but smoothly polished to a high gloss finish. The fragmented texture is similar to the cell structure of a leaf, due to the mosaic technique that has been used. 		<p>Tone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradient - Seen on the petals of the lotus flower, this gradient of dark to light helps create a 3D look to the flowers. This creates a more realistic image, adding to the visual impact. • The dotted gradient of the green leaves creates a look of movement, resembling a watery surface, typical of the environment of a lotus flower. • Tonal variation seen in the mosaic on the base helps gives the impression of realistic leaves. 		<p>Form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shade – semi sphere, created through curved extended lines from the stem & a stained glass pattern. This form means the light is directed out the bottom, preventing the light from flooding the room making it fit for purpose of an ambient lamp or reading lamp. • Stem – is cylindrical mimicking a trunk of a tree, further emphasised by the etched, bark-like texture promoting the naturalistic theme and Art Nouveau style. • Base – Wide thick base, slightly raised in the middle gives weight preventing the structure from falling over. The outer edge curves in an out like a lily pad or leaf, further emphasised by the 3D vein like structure on the surface. This emphasises the naturalistic theme of the lamp. • Form of the inner flowers – spherical in nature, individual circular shapes, curved slightly and overlapped before being fixed to the stem creates a realistic form of a flower almost like a tulip, emphasising the inspiration of flowers for the lamp. 		<p>Pattern</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated curved organic shapes give fluidity to the lampshade, almost creating movement, which draws your eyes along the curved pattern taking in all of the detail. • Repeated petal shapes help depict the focal point as they are larger than the pattern of the leaves in the background. • Repeated geometric mosaic shapes feature on the base of the lamp, creating a pattern. This pattern resembles the real life pattern of the veins of a leaf. • There is a striped pattern on the stem which helps lead the eye up from the base to the shade. 	

Louis Comfort Tiffany, "Pink Lotus Lamp", 1905

Social, Cultural and Other Influences

- Tiffany was influenced by the Art Nouveau movement. Art nouveau designs are known for having curved flowing lines, organic in nature. This can be seen in the Lotus Lamp in the curved lines which form the top of the lamp shade. It is also apparent in the curved, flowing lines which break up the stained glass shade. This helps create the structure of the shade adding elegance to its appearance.
- Art Nouveau was also known for using natural imagery in their design's themes. This is evident in Lotus lamp through the use of the lotus flower. It is seen in the stained glass shade as well as the 8 3D flowers encasing the lightbulbs. The stem of the base is carved to resemble a tree and the base itself uses enamelling to create a texture of leaf veins. This makes the shade look graceful and organic.
- Art Nouveau designs are also known for appearing fragile and delicate. This influence can be seen in the Lotus Lamp through the use of the material of glass. Glass can be easily smashed and the fact it has been hand cut and soldered preciously adds to its sense of fragility. It would need to be handled with care as to not damage it.
- Tiffany was influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement. This movement is characterised by well-made hand crafted goods with expert craftsmanship. This is apparent in the Lotus Lamp as all the glass pieces were cut and soldered by hand. There are over 2000 pieces of enamelled glass on the base and the bronze stem would have to be liquidised, moulded and etched to create its texture. All of this was painstakingly done by hand to the highest quality, ensuring expert craftsmanship.
- Tiffany was also influenced by the British Art & Crafts designer, William Morris, and his use of elaborate flower designs on his fabrics. This influence can be seen in the Lotus Lamp through the elaborate patterns created in the shade through the use of the mosaic stained glass as well as the incorporation of the lotus flower in the shade and tulips around the bulbs. This creates a very naturalistic look to the design.
- The Arts and Crafts movement is also characterised by staying true to the use of materials for designs. This influence is seen in Lotus Lamp through Tiffany's iconic way of colouring glass. He did not believe in painting on to glass to create colour and tone but instead sourcing and producing his own coloured glass through innovative techniques he later trademarked. Every piece of glass used in the lamp was coloured and cut by Tiffany and his team to create this elaborate design.
- Tiffany was influenced by the Gothic art movement, in particular, Gothic stained glass windows. These windows are extreme in size. We can see this in the Lotus lamp as it is extremely large for a table lamp. The shade measures 71.1cm in diameter as well as 86.4 cm in height. This gives the lamp extreme visual impact creating a centre piece in a room.
- He was influenced by the shape of Gothic stained glass windows, characterised by being arched and carved at the top. We can see this shape in the form of the shade which follows a curve. There are also curved lines which stem from the base over the shade to help create this shape.
- Gothic stained glass windows are known to use intense colours on glass. This is apparent in the Lotus Lamp through the intense reds, pinks and oranges of the flowers as well as the intense greens of the leaf shapes. This mimics a stained glass window appearance, like a painting made of glass. Tiffany also uses a similar technique to create his lamp by soldering pieces of glass together to create the image. However, Tiffany preferred to use coloured glass than paint onto it like the Gothic windows making his pieces unique and innovative for the time.
- Tiffany was influenced by his travels to exotic countries in Asia and the Middle East. These exotic countries were also an influence in the Art Nouveau movement, which was inspired by Japanese art. We can see the influence of India and Japan in this lamp through the use of the lotus flower. This is the national flower of these countries and symbolic of their natural wildlife. This makes the lamp itself look exotic and interesting.
- Influence of the invention of the lightbulb by Thomas Edison in 1879.





All sizes are approximate and intended as a guide only. Model shown in US.

