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NEW+NEXT DESIGN SCENTS

Spice & Girl

A guide to make scents of chinoiserie BY DORIS ATHINEOS



**Perfume Professor**  
Fragrance expert Pamela Vaile teaches at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology. Brainy, beautiful, and passionate about perfume, Pam gamely agreed to pair design styles with scents.



What does chinoiserie smell like? "Exotic spices," offers perfume expert Pamela Vaile, who "sees" with her nose.

She's a natural at comparing fragrance to art and design. "Scent triggers emotion and memory as surely as a nude [painting] or a red-lacquer desk," explains the winner of the Estée Lauder Faculty Achievement Award from New York's Fashion Institute of Technology, where she currently teaches.

Like shopping for furnishings, jewelry, or art, we choose perfume based on aesthetics. For the pagoda-possessed who have a thing

for Chinese Chippendale, Pam agreed to pick winners, both olfactory blockbusters and more exclusive, esoteric "niche" fragrances, available at only a few stores. "Women at the niche level don't want to smell like anyone else," she says. "They are looking for a more customized fragrance."

It's a point not lost on firms specializing in bespoke furnishings at design centers across the country. Whether shopping for fragrances or furnishings, "a particular kind of customer wants something exciting and innovative, not mainstream," she says.

But how to sniff out the right scent with scores of bottles to choose from? Pam makes scents of design. "I think of this as a design-survey course through an olfactory perspective," she explains. More styles (and scents) coming in future issues. ➤

**Scentsational** YSL's Opium (yslbeautyus.com), Nasomatto's Black Afgano (barneys.com), Agonist's The Infidels (agonistparfums.com), Dior's Hypnotic Poison (dior.com), Maison Francis Kurkdjian's Oud (luckyscent.com), and Heeley's Esprit du Tigre (jamesheeley.com). White-topaz-and-sapphire pagoda brooch in 18-carat gold is by Mish Tworkowski (mishnewyork.com).

## NEW+NEXT DESIGN SCENTS



This Chinese Chippendale-inspired bed was created by chinoiserie lover L.A. designer Mary McDonald.



### Fashion Find

Vintage bone leather Gucci bag with bamboo handles, sold for \$854 in 2012 at Hindman auctions in Chicago. (lesliehindman.com)



Iron bamboo "Manfred" floor lamp in Lollipop Red (curreyandcompany.com)



Chinese Chippendale dining chair by Biggs Powell in Memphis (biggspowell.com)

Red-lacquered "Pagoda" coffee table by Bunny Williams (bunnywilliamshome.com)



"Hana" bamboo bangles by jewelry designer Mish (mishnewyork.com)

## Chinoiserie

**Style:** Chinoiserie, aka Chinese Chippendale, Modern Ming

**Current epicenter:** Palm Beach

**Secret source:** Ask for Christine Bell (cbellfurnishing.com)

**History:** A hint of Asia produced under the watchful eye of Thomas Chippendale, circa 1750s

**Other proponents:** Craftsmen William and John Linnell; Jean Pillement; King George IV

**Design details:** Fretwork, pagoda crowns, bracket feet, bamboo, dragons, lions, lacquer finishes

**Where to see it:** England's Brighton Pavilion (pavilionfoundation.org)

and the Chinese Room at Claydon House (nationaltrust.org.uk/claydon);

Winterthur's Chinese Chippendale Parlor in Delaware (winterthur.org)

and Beauport's China Trade Room in Massachusetts (historicnewengland.org/beauport)

**Best vintage find:** Pagoda headboard by Thomasville

**Designers who get the look:** Charlotte Moss, Bunny Williams, Mary McDonald, Celerie Kemble

**Favorite fashion accessory:** Vintage Gucci bag with bamboo handles (lesliehindman.com)

**Jewelry:** Bamboo-shaped gold bracelets (mishnewyork.com)

**Style bible:** *Chinoiserie* by Dawn Jacobson (Phaidon, \$39.95)

**Perfumes:** "These fragrances capture the Western fascination for Eastern ingredients and showcase the intoxicating attraction of the unfamiliar," says perfume expert Pam Vaile.

**Classic scent:** Yves Saint Laurent's Opium ("first of the lavish, self-indulgent, spicy Orientals")

**Modern interpretation:** Dior's Hypnotic Poison ("addictive")

**Boutique/Niche:** Esprit du Tigre ("magnetic and alluring"), Oud ("intoxicating and electric"), The Infidels ("tempestuous"), and Black Afgano ("forbidden")