Between East and West

Chinoiserie Modern

Where shall we begin? For centuries we have been fascinated with the mysterious East. It began with Marco Polo and reached manic heights in Europe during the mid-1800’s. Artists, architects, decorators all embraced this exotic look. Chinoiserie style was adaptable to almost everything—fabric, wall paper, porcelain, gardens, furniture, porch columns and more. The ultimate example of chinoiserie is the Royal Pavilion designed by John Nash in Brighton, England where every aspect of the palace is devoted to gilded and lacquered Oriental motifs. Today, we can look around our own environment and see touches of chinoiserie---it is everywhere! The Metropolitan Museum of Art recently exhibited China: Through the Looking Glass which explored the impact of Chinese aesthetics on Western fashion. We have not lost our taste for chinoiserie!

This October, the Currey & Company Design Team has created furniture & lighting that takes a pared-down and contemporary look at this Oriental style we call Chinoiserie Modern.

Zhin Cabinet   Blanc de Chine Table Lamp
The Zhin Cabinet has crisp lines, bold color and geometric hardware with an Asian motif. The lava red inside adds drama and the hardware is a statement on its own. The cabinet features ample storage with soft close drawers, cubbies with cord management and an adjustable shelf than can be removed to accommodate a small flat screen TV. The Blanc de Chine Table Lamp is the epitome of simplicity yet with a distinct Oriental design. An off-white shantung shade tops the lamp. This lamp is also available in emerald green.

The Odeon Bar Cart is the perfect example of stream-lined chinoiserie with geometric patterning reminiscent of latticework and fretwork seen frequently in Chinese architecture. The cart is finished in hand-applied gold leaf. The top and shelf is constructed of a lightly antiqued mirror which adds a subtle accent without distracting from the bold metal leafing. It is impossible to think of chinoiserie and not include a bamboo element. The Imperial Bamboo Wall Sconce is made of brass with a soft antique finish. A matching chandelier and table lamp completes the collection.