

Louis Comfort Tiffany's Laurelton Hall Living Room



Living room, Laurelton Hall, c. 1925.

Photograph by David Aronow.

Located at the easternmost point of the main level of Laurelton Hall, the living room was linked to the reception hall by a passageway.

This approximately 1,600-square-foot space was referred to as the forest room. Its walls and ceilings enveloped the visitor. A painted pattern of gray-green interlacing chestnut leaves enhanced the effects of natural light and the colored light of the lamps. The result was reportedly akin to the richly varied light of an actual forest clearing.

The room's centerpiece was a massive wood table over which green turtleback-glass globes and shades were suspended from a wrought-iron yoke. The surface of



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the desk was covered with plants and flowers, stacks of magazines, and personal items. In the background, a grand mantel displayed Tiffany glass and pottery.

At one end of the room, steps led to an alcove where Tiffany eventually placed several of his prized leaded-glass creations, including sections disassembled from the Four Seasons, a large window from Tiffany's award-winning exhibit at the 1900 Exposition Universelle in Paris. Other parts of the window were installed in the reception hall at the garden entrance to the house. On adjacent walls were two exhibition windows, one of a figure with gourds and another featuring a maiden feeding flamingoes. The largest of the living room windows, *The Bathers*, ran the width of the alcove and was destroyed in the fire that devastated Laurelton Hall in 1957.

These important windows, with their depictions of nature, enhanced the unity of the room both architecturally and thematically. Resonating with Tiffany's spirit, the forest room epitomized Tiffany's personal aesthetic and lifelong pursuit of beauty.

LIVING ROOM

Objects in this gallery are from or related to the living room at Laurelton Hall. Objects from the living room are specifically marked. Others have been selected because they are similar to objects displayed in the room or because they provide context. Unless otherwise noted, they were designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848–1933) or one of his artists and made under the name of one of his companies in New York City.

1) *Hanging from replicated iron yoke:*



Two turtleback globes,
c. 1905
Living room, Laurelton Hall
Cast and leaded glass, bronze
(56-044:1, 2)

Three turtleback dome shades,
c. 1905
Living room, Laurelton Hall
Cast and leaded glass, bronze
(56-045:1, 2; 64-009)

Lamp screen, c. 1910
Dragonfly
Leaded glass
(2004-005)

2) *On replicated desk, left to right:*



Reading lamp, c. 1898
No. 269, Scarab design
Cast glass, bronze
Marks on base: 269 / TIFFANY STUDIOS / NEW YORK / [conjoined TGDco] (70-012)

Vase, c. 1904–14
Glazed white clay
Marks: [conjoined LCT] / 7 (78-0011)

Vase, c. 1904
Living room, Laurelton Hall
Glazed white clay
Marks: [conjoined LCT] / 201 A-Coll., L.C. Tiffany – Favrite / Pottery (79-532)

3) *Inset in replicated desk, back to front, left to right:*

Tea screen, c. 1900
Bronze, glass
Gift of Louis Platt
(77-052)

Letter rack, c. 1905
No. 1008,
Etched Metal and Glass design,
Grapevine pattern,
medium
Bronze, glass
Marks: TIFFANY STUDIOS / NEW YORK
Gift of Mrs. J. C. Willox Sr.
(62-013)



Engagement pad, c. 1905
No. 1022, Etched Metal and Glass design,
Grapevine pattern
Bronze, glass
Marks: TIFFANY STUDIOS / NEW YORK / 1022 (84-005)

Box, c. 1905
No. 815, Etched Metal and Glass design,
Grapevine pattern
Bronze, glass
Marks: TIFFANY STUDIOS / NEW YORK (79-525)

LIVING ROOM

Guestbook, 1916–51

Leather, paper, gold leaf

Maker unknown

Stamped on spine: *LAURELTON HALL*

OYSTER BAY LONG ISLAND, N.Y.

BY LOUIS C. TIFFANY

Inscribed, inside: *The fulfillment of
Louis C. Tiffany's 'Quest of Beauty'
is his creation "Laurelton."*

George F. Kunz. June 4th 1916.
(1999-022)

Beginning on wall left of entrance:

4) Old Mill at Freiburg, 1877

West gallery, art gallery, Laurelton Hall

Exhibited: The Art Institute of

Chicago, Twelfth International

Exhibition of Water Colors, 1932

Watercolor and gouache on paper

Signed, lower left: *L.C. Tiffany*

Signed, lower right: *Louis C. Tiffany*

Gift of Rollins College

(75-006)

*Note: An oil-on-canvas version was in
the living room at Laurelton Hall.*

**5) Four panels from the
Four Seasons
window, c. 1899–1900**

Living room,

Laurelton Hall

Exhibited: Exposition

Universelle, Paris,

1900, and Prima

Esposizione Internazionale d'Arte
Decorativa Moderna, Turin, Italy, 1902

Leaded glass

Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring

(57-017, 57-019, 57-018)

Winter, gift of Mark Twain Library and
Memorial, West Hartford, CT

(62-033)

6) The Gourd window c. 1898

Living room, Laurelton Hall

Exhibited: Grafton Galleries,
London, 1899

Figure with gourds

Leaded glass

Designer: Frank Brangwyn, British,
1867–1956

(U-070)

**7) Taming the Flamingo,
(also known as Feeding the
Flamingoes), 1888**

Art gallery, Laurelton Hall

Exhibited: World's Columbian

Exposition, Chicago, 1893

Awards: Specific Merit, World's

Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893

Watercolor on paper

Signed, lower left: *Louis C. Tiffany 88*

(85-011)

8) Window, c. 1892

Living room,

Laurelton Hall

Exhibited: World's

Columbian Exposition,

Chicago, 1893

"Maiden feeding

flamingoes in

the court of a Roman

house"

Leaded glass

Signed, lower right: *Tiffany Glass &
Dec. Co. 333–341 Fourth Ave N.Y.*

(U-072)



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