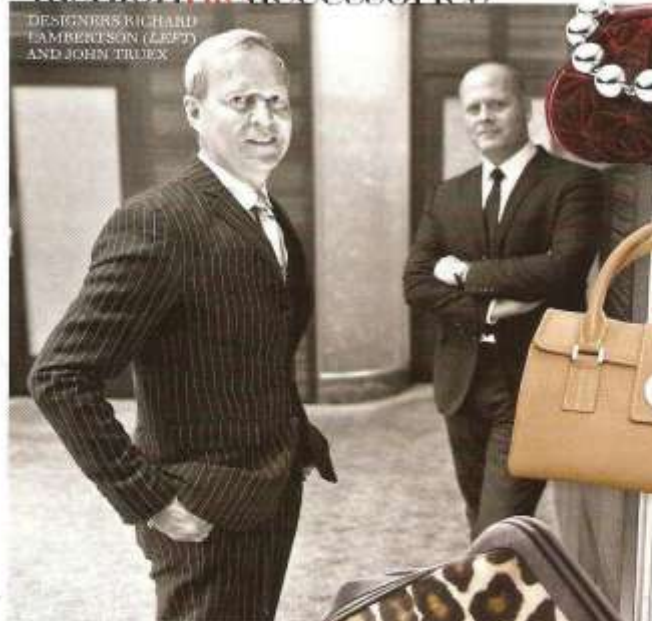


NOVEMBER
2011

FASHION

fashionfile accessories



DESIGNERS RICHARD LAMBERTSON (LEFT) AND JOHN TRUOX



Beyond BLUE

Tiffany & Co.'s new leather collection puts two established designers back in the spotlight.
By SARAH CASSELMAN



FROM TOP: TIFFANY & CO. BRACELET BAG, \$1,200, MANHATTAN SATCHEL, \$1,200, MORGAN CLUTCHES, \$960 EACH, GENEVIEVE SATCHEL, \$2,150, VIVIAN SMALL BRADED CLUTCH, \$1,200, ALL AT 800-265-1251, TIFFANY.COM

If diamonds are a girl's best friend, then the Tiffany & Co. Leather Collection is our hot new crush. From leopard print to rich suede to satin to its signature robin's egg blue, this iconic jewellery company has expanded its retail range to include a full line of handbags and small accessories. But that's only half of the story; the other half (the one that handbag enthusiasts have been cheering) is the design duo behind this lavish new lineup: Richard Lambertson and John Truex. Known for their luxury handbags under the Lambertson Truex label, these talented gents have kept high-end department stores, including Bergdorf Goodman, and their jetset clientele armed with some serious candy since 1998.

When the recession drove the company into bankruptcy in 2009, Tiffany came a-knocking and, soon after, bought the brand and hired the designers—a smart move, given Lambertson's and Truex's first-class reputation. "They are renowned for their extraordinary attention to detail, their classic yet innovative designs and the execution of their creative vision. Their designs, like all those at Tiffany, are unique, exclusive and multi-generational in appeal," says Andrea Hopson, vice-president for Tiffany & Co., Canada.

One of this design duo's initial tasks was to incorporate elements of the Tiffany brand into the new leather collection; they were inspired by that famous hue, incorporating it on the bags' enamel clasps and linings, while occasionally indulging in an all-out splash fest. Why settle for a little blue box when you can have a little blue bag? "The legacy of quality, fine materials and craftsmanship is apparent in Tiffany's past and present designs, including the brand's unmistakable namesake colour," says Lambertson.

There's no doubt that many pieces sit pretty on the stores' shelves—the classic Genevieve satchel, the glam Morgan clutch, the sleek Reversible tote; but it's the Bracelet bag, with its vintage-inspired shape, quilted velvet finish and jewellery-like handle (reminiscent of Tiffany's sterling silver bead bracelet) that seems born of an era gone by—one where chivalry and cocktail hour still exist. "The velvet fabrication is a subtle nod to the late 1920s, a time characterized by elegance and glamour from which the company draws a vast amount of inspiration," says Truex. "This bag just wants to go out and celebrate."

Is this fete-tastic bag their favourite? "From a designer's perspective, it's like asking a parent to choose a favourite child," says Truex, like a proud papa. As Tiffany expands its fashion family to focus on new categories of timeless accessories, like its latest leather endeavour (psst, next spring expect a tutti-frutti spin with tangerine and lime), they will continue to spark love affairs out of the blue. Needless to say, we're still crushing. □