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Inside man > By Jermaine Gallacher

Step away from the garish light of bare bulbs and take the plunge with a statement lampshade



lightbulbs hanging off statement cords everywhere you go. Like a room full of naked bodies, at first it's interesting to see all the constituent parts and how they are put together but, in almost all instances, the ambience will be improved if you put some damn clothes on.

The good news if you don't know what to wear is that lampshades come in almost every colour, shape and size, so much so that choosing

the right one can be daunting. If you're feeling bold, come down to my Borough showroom where I'm the exclusive stockist of

- F Taylor Colantonio's brushstroke lanterns, starting at £350. Made from hand-painted PVC woven strips, these artfully
- coloured shades give off a flattering glow which, let's face it, we could all do with. I also currently have the hots for

Viola Lanari's mirror shades. Available in three colour ways from £105, they will add instant



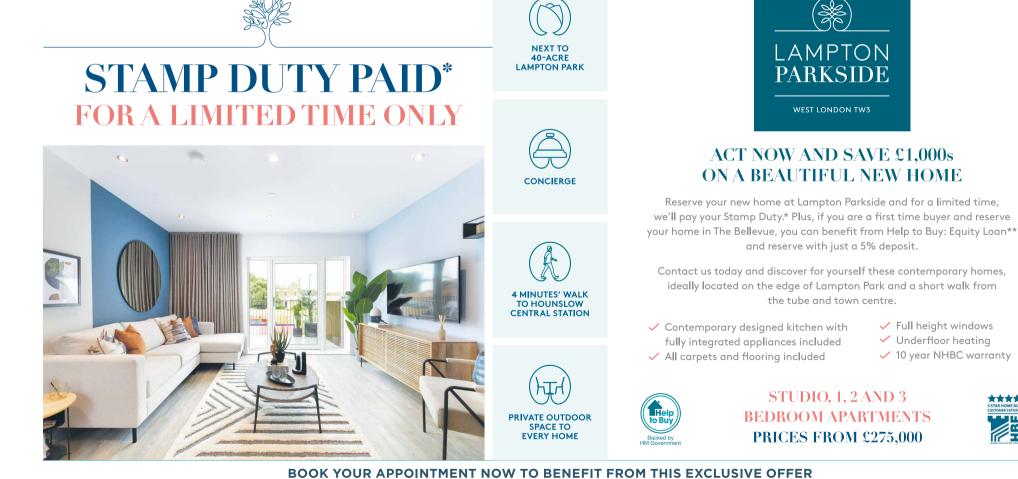
Get the glow: Viola Lanari's mirror shades and, top right, F Taylor Colantonio's brushstroke lantern

glamour to any room. For ultimate impact, my favourite is the royal purple. Taking a leaf out of an even more regal book, Prince Charles's favourite interior designer, **Robert** Kime, makes pleated silk shades that add class to any room. They don't come cheap; prices start at £345, but some things are worth it and these won't go out of style.

An all-time classic that you won't need to save for is the paper shade, originally designed by Japanese-



American sculptor Isamu Noguchi, the subject of a recent exhibition at the Barbican. It is based on traditional Japanese bamboo and paper lanterns and has become an icon of 20th century design; I challenge you to find someone who hasn't had one at least once in their life. The plain white shades give off a nice, diffuse light but I have been known to jazz them up with a bit of paint. I've found versions online for as little as £1.60, so don't be afraid to try something bold.



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