

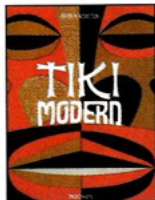
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TIKI MODERN

A glorious celebration of 1950s home stylings

SVEN A KIRSTEN



Taschen Books, £24.99

In the 1940s and 1950s, the USA was swept by tiki fever. Soldiers stationed in the South Pacific brought home

garish gewgaws, which at first adorned themed bars, but later spilled into suburban America's dens, pool bars and rumpus rooms. No groovy home was complete without a mini tiki bar, adorned with flower-strung leis, Easter Island

statue-shaped cocktail mugs, and bright printed fabrics.

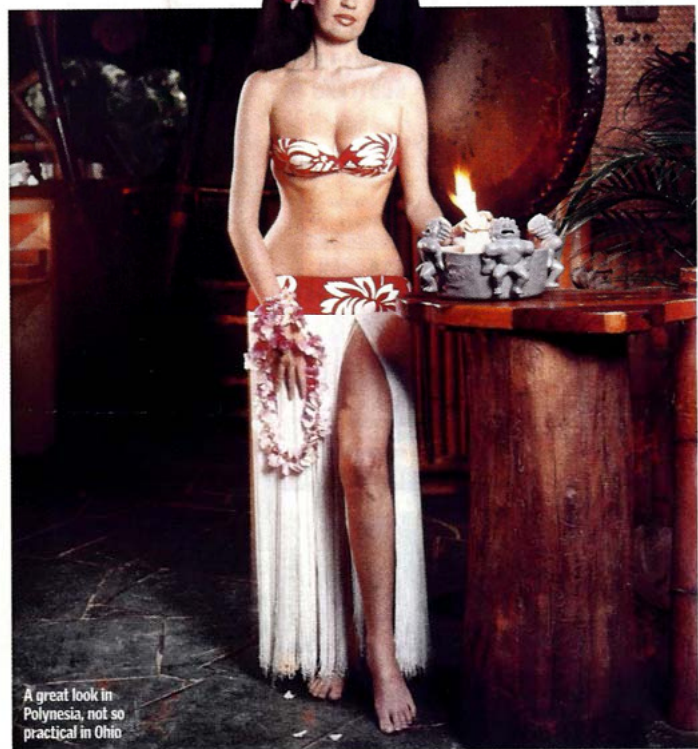
In the mid-1990s, this trend was rediscovered by a new generation of artists such as Shag, and compilers of lovingly kitsch compilation albums.

German Sven A Kirsten is a world authority on tiki culture, and his gigantic, beautifully bound tome is a bible of tiki treasures. From lush pictures of long-demolished, lushly decorated restaurants, to original, awesomely illustrated bar menus,

kitsch record sleeves and enough tiki mugs to fill the world's longest bar, every aspect of the culture is dissected, catalogued and presented for your enjoyment.

Kirsten is particularly big on tiki designer Witco (the genius behind Elvis' Jungle Room), documenting a wide-eyed visit to a Witco tiki lounge in Seattle. He also sets tiki in context, touching on other big 1950s design themes, such as modernism, space age and primitivism. He writes evocatively, with conviction and authority. Any book with a chapter entitled 'The History and Meaning of the Leopard Print' deserves a big, chunky place on every jet-setter's (Eames) bookcase.

Kate Hodges



A great look in Polynesia, not so practical in Ohio



Enjoy a romantic evening in front of a fireplace with glowing red eyes