

SHOPPING WITH
AVE BRADLEY

Putting Nemo to Work

Fishbowls that function as décor.



PHOTOGRAPHS ABOVE AND BOTTOM CENTER BY ANNIE TRITT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

FOR THE FINNED Ave Bradley admires large glass jars that could double as fishbowls at Big Daddy's Antiques in San Francisco; \$85 each, (415) 621-6800, bdantiques.com.

As the vice president of design for Kimpton Hotels, a company based in San Francisco, Ave Bradley spends a lot of time trying to anticipate what a traveler might need — even something as improbable as a temporary pet.

Under the company's Guppy Love program, many of its hotels offer guests an in-room fish to keep them company.

"It was the idea of a former general manager at the Hotel Monaco in Seattle — one of the Kimpton hotels — "to provide little fish bowls to anyone who wanted a pet companion," Ms. Bradley said. "You call downstairs and get one delivered, and then our staff will care, feed and tend to the fish throughout your stay."

A fishbowl also adds a decorative element to a room, she noted, and some of the most interesting ones may not have been intended for that purpose.

At the Other Shop antiques store in San Francisco, for instance, she found a vintage glass jar once used to hold butter pretzels.

"An orange goldfish flying around in that bowl would be so darling," she said, noting that the fish would match the orange printing

on the jar.

At Cole Hardware, in the Russian Hill neighborhood, she found a more utilitarian option: lidded glass jars.

"For the person who might be on a budget," she said, "the oversized, short, squat guys would be great for fishbowls."

She also liked the large, stately glass jars at Big Daddy's Antiques. "If you did a dinner party and had five of these vessels with fish in them," she said, "it would be an amazing tablescape."

Online, she found more contemporary styles, like the acrylic wall-mountable fishbowls from Danya B on Amazon.com.

"Imagine a series of those on a wall," she said. "It would be a blast — it would look like portholes."

And finally, on the Conran Shop site, she picked out the Fishscape by Aruliden, a "really beautiful" glass bowl indented on the bottom to form an underwater landscape.

With so many appealing fishbowls to choose from, Ms. Bradley must be tempted to introduce some goldfish into her own home, this reporter speculated.

"I tried it as a kid," she said. "But I didn't actually have such good luck with them."

TIM McKEOUGH



1984 porcelain and glass fishbowl; about \$470 at Workshopped, (61-2) 9146-4353, workshopped.com.au.



White ABS plastic and glass Fishhotel; \$35 at Umbra, (800) 387-5122, umbra.com.



Danya B acrylic wall-mounted fishbowl; about \$20 at amazon.com.



Fishscape fishbowl designed by Aruliden; \$140 at the Conran Shop, (866) 755-9079, conranusa.com.



One-gallon glass jar; about \$12 at Cole Hardware, (415) 674-8913, colehardware.com.

Bottle Vase glass fishbowl; about \$440 at Roger Arquer, rogerarquer.com.



Glass fish-shaped fishbowl; about \$60 at Target, (800) 591-3869, target.com.



Vintage butter pretzels jar; \$49 at the Other Shop, (415) 621-5424, othershopsf.com.