



In 1893, the Tiffany Chapel was created for the Chicago world's fair (World's Columbian Exposition). Louis Comfort Tiffany's exhibit at the fair was developed by the Tiffany Glass and Decorating Company. The exhibit was installed at the Tiffany & Co. pavilion in the Manufacturers and Liberal Arts Building.



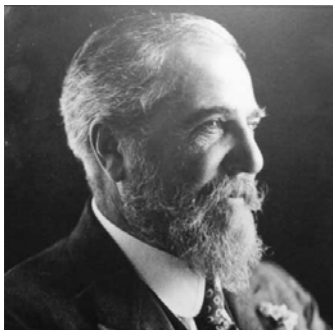
Today, the chapel can be seen at the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art in Winter Park, Florida. The chapel in its form and design is one of the most beautiful that my wife and I have seen. The room, except for two of the four benches is in its original state as at the exhibit in Chicago. From its "decorative moldings, altar floor, carved plaster arches, marble and glass-mosaic furnishings, four leaded glass windows, sixteen glass-mosaic encrusted columns (1,000 pounds each) and a ten-foot by eight-foot electrified chandelier. The nonhistorical parts of the chapel include walls, nave floor, and ceilings." [Morse Museum](http://MorseMuseum.org) <morsemuseum.org>

The museum staff commented to us that many people who enter the chapel are so moved by the room's beauty that many sit on the benches and pray.

After the Chicago fair, he moved the chapel to his Tiffany studios. It then was purchased by a wealthy woman and installed in 1898 in the crypt of New York's Cathedral Church of Saint John Divine. [Morse Museum](http://MorseMuseum.org) <morsemuseum.org>

It was used for about ten years but fell into disrepair, due to water damage. Tiffany became concerned and acquired the chapel in 1916. He moved and reinstalled the chapel at his Long Island estate called Laurelton Hall. Why it came to Winter Park, Florida is explained below.

### **Louis Comfort Tiffany**



Louis was born in 1848, the son of Charles Lewis and Harriet Olivia Avery (Young) Tiffany. Charles, who touted himself as the 'King of Diamonds,' began his business in New York City in 1837 with a friend, John B. Young (Harriet's brother) with a loan from his father. By 1841, he expanded his business and changed the name to Tiffany & Company. In 1902, Charles died at the age of 90. His worth at his death was approximately \$35 million (equivalent to nearly a billion dollars as of 2017).

By 1875, Louis Comfort Tiffany had been involved in painting as he became interested in glassmaking and working with glassmakers in Brooklyn. After being commissioned to do several interior designs, including President Chester Arthur's New York residence, he opened his own business and in 1902 it was called the Tiffany Studios. During that year he also became the first Design Director at Tiffany & Company. There he helped design stained glass windows and lamps, glass mosaics, blown glass, ceramic, jewelry, enamels and metalwork. During his career he trademarked Favrite (French for handmade) glass, enamel and pottery. His style was considered Art Nouveau. His studios became famous for their floral lamps and other creations. The largest collection of Louis Comfort Tiffany's work, including his life history, can be seen at the Morse Museum. He died on January 17, 1933 in New York City at the age of 84.



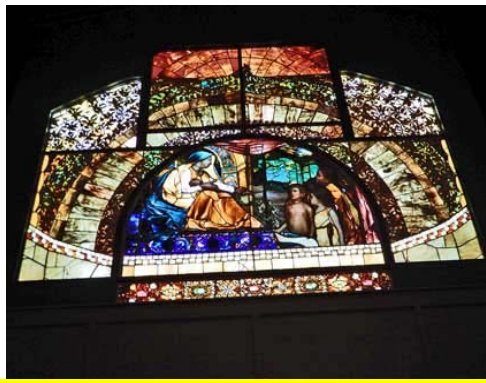


Baptismal Font on the right. Latin sayings on the arches: "I will go to the altar of God, to God who gives joy to my youth." "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth." "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was, who is and who always will be." "Holy, holy, holy, holy holy."



Electrolier, cross-shaped chandelier, weighs 1,000 pounds, 200 eleven-watt light bulbs. Early use of electric lights.  
Below are the windows in the current chapel location.





"In 1957, when Tiffany's abandoned estate was ravaged by fire, Hugh and Jeannette McKean of Winter Park, Florida, were notified by a Tiffany daughter that some of his most important leaded-glass windows were still intact. In 1930, after his graduation from Rollins College, Hugh McKean had been one of the young artists in residence at Laurelton Hall as part of a program established by Tiffany. Years later in 1942, Jeannette McKean had established a gallery, now The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art, on the Rollins College campus and named it to honor her grandfather. Her interest in Tiffany glass prompted her to curate a show of his work at the gallery in 1955, one of the first one-man exhibitions of Tiffany work in the second half of the 20th century. The McKeanes visited the devastated Laurelton Hall site, and Jeannette decided they should buy all of the mansion's then unwanted windows and architectural fragments. Two years later the McKeanes purchased the components of the chapel that remained at Laurelton Hall. For decades, many of the chapel elements had remained in packing crates as the McKeanes researched the locations of the various chapel furnishings that had been dispersed after 1949. They systematically acquired these furnishings as they became available to keep all of the chapel parts in a single collection. In 1996, the Board of Trustees of the Charles Hosmer Morse Foundation endorsed an expansion project for the Morse Museum that would fulfill the dream of the McKeanes to reassemble Tiffany's 1893 chapel. A team of architecture, art, and conservation experts was named to begin the more than two-year project of reassembling the chapel. The chapel opened to the public in April 1999, the first time since it was open at the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago." <morsemuseum.org> The following are photos of the fair and at the cathedral.



Sources: Literature provided by the Morse Museum, <http://www.morsemuseum.org/louis-comfort-tiffany/tiffany-chapel>, <https://www.tiffany.com/world-of-tiffany/about-louis-comfort-tiffany/>, <https://www.tiffany.com/world-of-tiffany/charles-lewis-tiffany/>, <http://www.thejewelleryeditor.com/jewellery/article/the-history-of-tiffany-tiffanys/>, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis\\_Comfort\\_Tiffany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Comfort_Tiffany), [https://www.metmuseum.org/TOAH/HD/tiff/hd\\_tiff.htm](https://www.metmuseum.org/TOAH/HD/tiff/hd_tiff.htm), <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Louis-Comfort-Tiffany>, <https://www.wikiart.org/en/louis-comfort-tiffany/>, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/2957/louis-comfort-tiffany> and <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/2957/louis-comfort-tiffany>.

acuri.net    John R. Vincenti    Morse Museum: Tiffany Chapel