

## THE TOP 10 CENTER TABLES

*Sheila Bridges and Tom Scheerer gather round these tables that star in an entry but also happily take supporting roles elsewhere*

Whether it holds flowers, framed photos, or a bowl full of keys and spare change, a center table is the classic anchor for an entry. “It greets your guests and sets the tone for what’s to follow,” says designer Tom Scheerer. “If you have a house with a large entry hall, it’s simply the smartest way to furnish it.”

But a center table, either round or oval, doesn’t have to be confined to the foyer. “I often place one in the middle of a large living

room to divide the space,” says Sheila Bridges—especially in a room without a fireplace or other obvious focal point. Yet no matter its design or placement, a center table will earn its place only if it is beautifully styled. “Use the entire top,” suggests Bridges, who favors arrangements of books, pottery, and taxidermy. And do think twice before plopping a single vase of flowers in the middle, says Scheerer. “That can look a little funereal.” ▷

TEXT BY CATHERINE HONG / PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTOPHER CHURCHILL / PRODUCED BY LUCY BAMMAN

### THE EXPERTS

#### SHEILA BRIDGES

Since launching her New York firm in 1994, Bridges has created interiors full of color and pattern. Her newest project is a line of clothing based on her Harlem Toile de Jouy pattern. [sheilabridges.com](http://sheilabridges.com)

#### TOM SCHEERER

New York–based Scheerer is noted for his architect’s eye for proportion and an appreciation for all-American elegance, which he applies to houses and private clubs up and down the East Coast and in the Bahamas. [tomscheerer.com](http://tomscheerer.com)



**1 / MESA DUE BY LELLA AND MASSIMO VIGNELLI FOR POLTRONA FRAU**

**SB:** Elegant and architectural. A nice size. The proportions are well thought out, and there's something aerodynamic about its form. I love the stitching of the leather on the base.

**TS:** This one is great for a pared-down environment, but I'd love to see it strike a note of contrast in a more historic room. It's an original with real integrity of design. 59" dia. x 29.5" h., \$6,620. poltronafrau.com



**2 / BASSANI MARBLE-TOP ENTRY TABLE BY HORCHOW**

**TS:** This updated version of the classic French gueridon has an exuberant Art Deco feel. It's on the small side, so you could put it in an intimate entry, but it's so feminine, I also see it in a lady's boudoir.

**SB:** It's ideal for a space that needs lightening up. The white marble will go with any decor, and I like the scrolled legs. And it's a great price. 42.5" dia. x 29.5" h., \$1,999. horchow.com



**3 / CLINE DINING TABLE BY SIXPENNY**

**SB:** I like the color of the wood and the neutral, midcentury form, which lets you mix it with almost anything, from Lucite to Louis XVI. And it's a very good price point, though you have to assemble it yourself.

**TS:** I agree—very well done. It looks like Scandinavian teak, though it's made of rubberwood. And it's quiet, which lets you focus on what's on top. 48" dia. x 30.5" h., \$799. sixpenny.com



**4 / ROXBURY TABLE BY MADELINE STUART COLLECTION**

**SB:** Combining high-shine stainless steel and dark walnut gives this a modern glamour. But the X-shaped braces are decorative, not structural. I see this in a newer building.

**TS:** For me, this has a retro feel. I'm thinking of the *Normandie* or the 1930s. I like the fact that the metal hoop around the rim is seamless—an expensive detail. It's dressy and urban, with a really nice finish. 48" dia. x 30" h., \$8,855\*. madelinestuart.com



**5 / STARBURST DINING TABLE BY KATE SPADE NEW YORK**

**TS:** This might be my favorite. I love the proportions, which make it ideal for a center table as well as a dining table—perfect to sit under. It's got a bit of a Sputnik vibe, but still neutral.

**SB:** It's chic and super versatile. They've distressed the notched edges of the legs, but in a contemporary way. **TS:** And the lacquer finish isn't so polished that it reveals every fingerprint. 48" dia. x 30" h., \$4,265. abchome.com

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**6 / REGENCY DINING TABLE BY ROSE TARLOW MELROSE HOUSE**

**TS:** This mahogany table has the quality of an antique but at a much lower price. I love the starburst pattern on top and the curve of the legs, but I do wish the sabots were shinier.  
**SB:** Classic Regency style and great quality. The reeding on the rim and legs is lovely; the color resembles fruitwood. I imagine it with antiques, classic furniture, and chintzes.  
 72" dia. x 29" h., \$10,890\*. rosetarlow.com



**7 / RIVET ROUND ENTRY TABLE BY ANTHONY COX FOR RH MODERN**

**SB:** The I beam-inspired maple legs and rivets are masculine and architectural. Glass-topped tables can feel rickety, but the tripod base makes this one sturdy.  
**TS:** I'm impressed that something this complicated, made of such rich materials, comes at such a reasonable price. And the burnished brass gives it a bit of age. Nice!  
 42" dia. x 30" h., \$2,595. rhmodern.com



**8 / STARR SIDE TABLE BY INDIA MAHDAVI FOR RALPH PUCCI**

**TS:** It's Russian Constructivism meets French Art Deco. I'd use this table to anchor a small entryway in a city apartment.  
**SB:** It could also make a stylish breakfast table. The diameter is small, but it still makes a big statement, thanks to the juxtaposition of the black lacquer and matte wood. You can actually move the disks of the base, which is fun.  
 31.5" dia. x 26" h., \$13,080. ralphpucci.net



**9 / JONATHAN TABLE BY IRONWARE INTERNATIONAL**

**TS:** Loaded with history: It's inspired by a table Diego Giacometti made for Hubert de Givenchy. The octagonal shape is beautiful, as is the polished travertine top. You could even use it on a covered porch.  
**SB:** Such wonderful hand-hammered ironwork. So well made, it would break you before you break it. And the "greige" travertine goes with everything.  
 51" dia. x 30" h., \$14,755\*. johnrosselli.com



**10 / DICHOTOMY TABLE BY KELLY WEARSTLER**

**TS:** Talk about an attention grabber! At first glance, the base looks like a tree, but then you realize it's two hands. Clearly it's inspired by Pedro Friedeberg—not a table you can ignore. In fact, I wouldn't put anything on top of it.  
**SB:** I like the finish and the color. The oil-rubbed bronze would play beautifully in a room with vibrant jewel tones. It's definitely for someone who wants a little drama!  
 36" dia. x 30" h., \$19,500. kellywearstler.com

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## THE TOP 10 COCKTAIL TABLES

*Grab a glass! Designers Paris Forino and Bennett Leifer get the lowdown on these living room essentials that are anything but standard-issue*

The cocktail table is the nerve center of the modern living room. The low-lying surface is where we put not only drinks and snacks, but also art books, flower arrangements, and remote controls. “A cocktail table sets the tone of the room,” says designer Bennett Leifer. “It needs to be functional while also pleasing to the eye.”

When choosing a cocktail table, consider how you plan to use it, says designer Paris Forino. “Go delicate and sculptural if it is in a formal space and

won’t get a lot of wear and tear,” she explains. “But for a den, where people might be eating around the TV, you’ll want something more utilitarian.”

“Keep the table height close to the seat height,” adds Leifer. “This not only ensures visual harmony but also keeps objects within easy reach.” He recommends placing a table so there’s enough space to walk comfortably between it and the sofa. “You can have a spectacular cocktail table, but it’s not going to work if it ruins the flow of the room.” ▶

### THE EXPERTS

#### PARIS FORINO

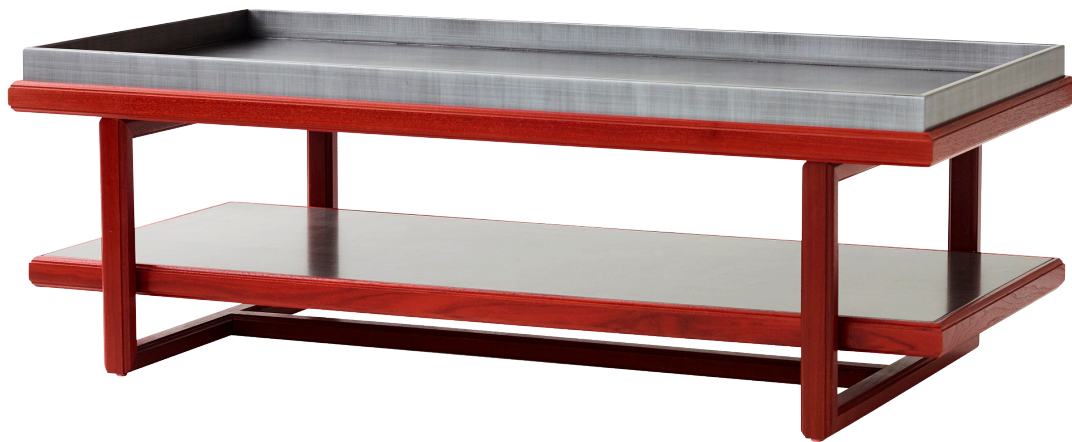
Born in Australia, this New York-based designer has made a name for herself with a portfolio of chic, airy interiors that includes residential and hotel projects in New York, Miami, and Stockholm. [parisforinodesign.com](http://parisforinodesign.com)

#### BENNETT LEIFER

Polished surfaces and gem-cut shapes are a signature of the New York-based decorator’s highly curated interiors. He has worked on residences in Los Angeles and Aspen. [bennettleifer.com](http://bennettleifer.com)

TEXT BY CATHERINE HONG / PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTOPHER CHURCHILL / PRODUCED BY ORLI BEN-DOR





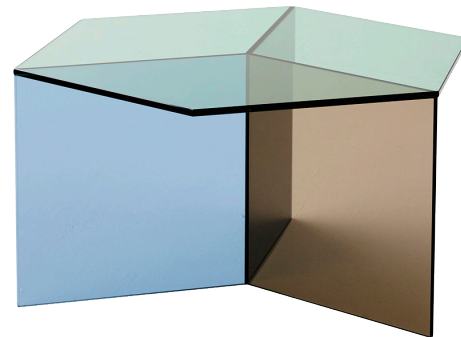
**1 / NO. 99 TABLE BY THE NEW TRADITIONALISTS**

**PF:** The proportions on this are lovely; long and sleek, though it's obviously for a big room. The tray top is terrific—everything looks neater on a tray.  
**BL:** The best feature of this painted-wood table is the expansive lower shelf, which has space for magazines, games, or remote controls. It's informal, so it's great for a family room or den.  
 60" w. x 30" d. x 20" h., \$3,950. [thenewtraditionalists.com](http://thenewtraditionalists.com)



**2 / PHOENIX COCKTAIL TABLE BY THOMAS O'BRIEN FOR CENTURY**

**PF:** Thomas O'Brien is a maestro at mixing old and new. The mahogany-veneer top lends this table a traditional feeling, while the acrylic makes it more modern.  
**BL:** That combination gives it a lot of flexibility. I can see it in a range of spaces, from formal to casual—it's a chameleon. And I love the faceted legs.  
**PF:** It has elegance and refinement—perfect for a New York City apartment.  
 47" w. x 32" d. x 16.5" h., \$5,500. [centuryfurniture.com](http://centuryfurniture.com)



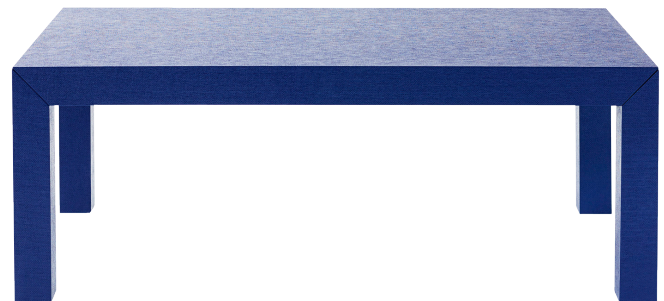
**3 / ISOM TABLE BY SEBASTIAN SCHERER**

**BL:** Amazing. The geometry of this glass table appears to change from every angle. And the colors of the glass also seem different depending on your floor. It's got real design impact, especially for the price. I'd love it in multiples.  
**PF:** I agree—the play of light and shadow is fantastic, and the colors are fabulous. But with its sharp edges, this is probably not a table for a home with young children.  
 28" w. x 24" d. x 14" h., \$1,195. [momastore.org](http://momastore.org)



**4 / JUTE COCKTAIL TABLE BY SELAMAT DESIGNS**

**PF:** Because it's not heavy, this table can be moved around easily. And I like the way the light casts shadows in concentric circles. The natural quality of the jute brings gorgeous texture to a room. This would be beautiful in a solarium or a beach house.  
**BL:** It could also be a sculptural piece for a modern loft. The shape is a classic, and it's well-made. I'd order the optional glass top to make it more practical.  
 30" dia. x 17" h., \$560. [selamatdesigns.com](http://selamatdesigns.com)



**5 / PARSONS COCKTAIL TABLE BY BUNGALOW 5**

**BL:** You would never know this was a table that comes flat-packed. I'm always searching for a great Parsons table, and this one looks custom without the cost. It's another one that would work in a den or playroom.  
**PF:** The blue is exquisite, and the lacquered grass cloth adds texture. It's a simple, strong piece—very affordable and versatile.  
 48.5" w. x 28.5" d. x 17.5" h., \$975. [bungalow5.com](http://bungalow5.com)

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**6 / 45° TAVOLINO BY RON GILAD FOR MOLteni & C**

**PF:** These glass-topped cubes are not as simple as they seem: The aluminum frames are covered with walnut veneer, as well as an unexpected lacquer color on the inside. The mitered corners are a nice touch, too.

**BL:** These are so versatile. You could use one as a side table or do a cluster as a cocktail table. I'd go wild with eight staggered in front of a long sofa!

14.5" sq. x 14.5" h., \$1,388 each. molteni.it



**7 / BLOCK COCKTAIL TABLE BY KARA MANN FOR MILLING ROAD**

**BL:** Very pretty, and the scale is ideal for a room where the family gathers to watch TV or eat. The design is relaxed enough for a beach house but stylish enough for a city home. And the burl wood will hide blemishes.

**PF:** The bleached burl-wood veneer is lovely and has a lot of character. Those two huge hidden drawers are super-practical, and it is obviously sturdy too! 62" w. x 43" d. x 15" h., \$3,495. millingroad.com



**8 / VIAVAI TABLE BY NATUZZI**

**BL:** Clean-lined and chic. This metal table is well-made and feels nice and durable. It's smaller, so it could also be used as an occasional table.

**PF:** The rubberized finish makes it friendlier than powder-coated metal. I also appreciate the warm, unsterile shade of white. The table is quite low, so I would pair it with modern seating, like a floor cushion. It's a great little staple—a terrific basic. 26" dia. x 13" h., \$515. natuzzi.us



**9 / DUSK COCKTAIL TABLE BY COIL + DRIFT**

**BL:** This is one of my favorites. I love the tension between the lightness of the hand-welded-steel base and the substantial nature of the marble slab.

**PF:** The veining on the marble is stunning. This table has elegant proportions, strong craftsmanship, and gorgeous materials. It's on the smaller side, so I would place it in a city living room, maybe with a pair of Art Deco club chairs.

44" w. x 23" d. x 13" h., \$2,900. coilanddrift.com



**10 / THE OCTAIL TABLE BY LAMSHOP**

**BL:** I'm crazy for an animal print, and the hand-painted tortoiseshell finish on this wood table is beautiful. The octagonal shape makes it unique. With the glass top, the lower shelf functions like a display case—you can show off books and objects.

**PF:** This table has a bit of a rock-star vibe. Because of its size, I can see it in the center of a large seating group. It would be dramatic with a chandelier hanging over it. 42" dia. x 18" h., \$5,250. lamshop-4.myshopify.com

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## THE TOP 10 DEMILUNE TABLES

*Less can definitely be more, especially when it comes to small spaces. Designers Amanda Nisbet and Joe Lucas enjoy some semicircular thinking*

Sometimes a half is better than a whole. When space is tight, a demilune (or half-moon) table can be the perfect shape: Its straight edge fits flush against the wall while the curved top eases traffic flow. “It’s a natural for a foyer or hallway, because there are no corners to bump into,” says Los Angeles decorator Joe Lucas. And it can be utilitarian or decorative, as needed: “You can use it as a station for keys and mail, or as a display for a floral arrangement.” A pair of demilunes can add sym-

metry to a space. “In a living room, they can flank a fireplace,” says New York designer Amanda Nisbet.

Demilune consoles were popular in France during the mid-18th century, and many are still inspired by traditional examples, flaunting tapered legs, fretwork, or inlaid designs. Of course, it’s now easy to find modern styles in metal or glass. Many new versions are so slender, they’re more like crescent moons. “They’re great for the narrowest New York City hallways,” says Nisbet. ▷

### THE EXPERTS

#### JOE LUCAS

The Los Angeles decorator opened his studio in 2005 and is the owner of furniture showroom Harbinger. His layered interiors combine East Coast tradition and California cool. [lucasstudioinc.com](http://lucasstudioinc.com)

#### AMANDA NISBET

A rule-breaking approach to pattern, color, and texture has been Nisbet’s calling card since she opened her New York firm in 1998. She also designs lighting for Urban Electric and a line of textiles. [amandanisbetdesign.com](http://amandanisbetdesign.com)

TEXT BY CATHERINE HONG / PHOTOGRAPHY BY BARNARD & MEYER / PRODUCED BY ORLI BEN-DOR



## 1 / TANGMERE DEMILUNE BY MR. BROWN LONDON

**JL:** I'm a great fan of Mr. Brown London, which does a kind of modern English. The unusual legs are what set this piece apart. I like how they fill the space and travel up the wall. It's sort of a day-to-night piece—it could live in a sunroom because it's so light and airy, but it would also look dramatic in a dark, lacquered room.

**AN:** This is a very easy piece to use and could live with a range of decor. The marble top would be terrific styled with a big, chunky black lamp, maybe with a bold Color Field painting behind it rather than a mirror. The hammered-gold finish is a nice detail, too—I like that it's imperfect and a bit roughed up. \$2,685; 44" w. x 22" d. x 30" h.; [mrbrownhome.com](http://mrbrownhome.com).



## 2 / VINCENT HALF-ROUND TABLE BY OLY

**JL:** I'm a sucker for faux-bois, and I love the white, plaster-like finish on this cast-resin table. It would fit somewhere casual, like a conservatory, but it's sculptural enough for a more important room.

**AN:** A great piece. The matte finish makes me want to layer on woods and natural textures. I see it surrounded by beiges and whites, like a cerused-oak mirror and a grass cloth-covered wall. \$1,975; 39" w. x 21" d. x 33" h.; [olystudio.com](http://olystudio.com).



## 3 / CUFF CONSOLE BY NATASHA BARADARAN

**AN:** Divine! I love the proportions, the hammered-gold and ebony finishes, the amorphic cutouts—it's a knockout. And it would even make a chic bar. It's expensive, but I think it's worth it.

**JL:** Me too. It's got the grandeur to anchor a space and could easily be the star of the room. I picture it against a mirrored wall, so you could see the reflection of the gold back. \$14,700; 48" w. x 12" d. x 36" h.; [jeandemerry.com](http://jeandemerry.com).



## 4 / FLUTED IRON CONSOLE BY GLOBAL VIEWS

**AN:** Here's a clean, simple cast-iron demilune that won't break the bank. It's got classic lines and curves, and you can't go wrong with basic black. It works anywhere, even a porch.

**JL:** Yes, sometimes you need just a little bit of a look. The curves and fluted legs give it a touch of femininity, while the granite top and finial make a strong impression. The price is right, but I wouldn't use two—this is a stand-alone piece. \$925; 42" w. x 14" d. x 33.5" h.; [globalviews.com](http://globalviews.com).



## 5 / SLIM HALF-ROUND CONSOLE TABLE BY ROOM & BOARD

**JL:** This would do the trick in a hall where you need somewhere to toss your keys. It would also look cute between twin beds in a kids' room or guest room—the height is just right. And I adore that Tiffany blue color.

**AN:** I love that you can order this online with a choice of so many colors. And the metal is nice and solid. You don't feel like it's going to fall apart. \$269; 30" w. x 10" d. x 29" h.; [roomandboard.com](http://roomandboard.com).

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## 6 / PALM BEACH DEMILUNE BY OOMPH

**JL:** Oomph's lacquered furniture always looks fresh, and this table comes in 16 colors, as well as custom options. With its raffia top, it feels right for a beach house or a first apartment. It could also make a great bedside table, if you don't need storage—it's deep enough to hold a lamp.

**AN:** It's fun and preppy. This bright orangey-red shade could add a lot of impact to an otherwise bland space. The raffia brings a nice textural quality to the piece, and it's laminated, which makes it a little bit more hardy—you could confidently place it in a kids' room.

\$1,895; 40" w. x 19" d. x 33" h.; [oomphonline.com](http://oomphonline.com).



## 7 / BLEECKER DEMILUNE CONSOLE BY DESIRON

**AN:** This is a very slender, minimal table, but its elongated shape keeps it from feeling too itty-bitty. It doesn't have a whole lot of character in itself, so it could fit into any number of contemporary settings.

**JL:** It's a bit edgy. It lends itself to a room with clean lines, maybe a home office, with a photograph hanging above it. The gold-speckled mirror top adds interest.

\$4,630; 48" w. x 12" d. x 33" h.; [desiron.com](http://desiron.com).



## 8 / GUSTAVIAN TABLE BY DE GOURNAY

**JL:** This is a classic French-inspired demilune, but it's not overly ornate. I would love to see it in a dining room against a hand-painted mural or a striking wallpaper. You can order it in any size—you often need a specific depth with demilunes.

**AN:** Because it feels so feminine, with its tapered legs, I see it in a lady's dressing room. It would be pretty to use two of these in an all-white room.

\$3,995; 38.5" w. x 19" d. x 32" h.; [degournay.com](http://degournay.com).



## 9 / ACADIA LEGACY DEMILUNE BY DONGHIA

**AN:** The double legs and half-star design on the bottom give this a graphic quality. And the combination of the bronze and wood is well done. The shelf is a plus.

**JL:** Demilunes often lean feminine, but this one has a rather masculine sensibility. It's good-looking, with the heft and formality to flank a fireplace. My only reservation is the glass top—I might replace it with stone or wood.

\$9,996; 36" w. x 16.5" d. x 32" h.; [donghia.com](http://donghia.com).



## 10 / FENCED-IN CONSOLE BY UHURU DESIGN

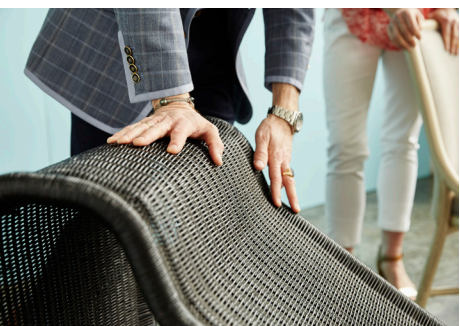
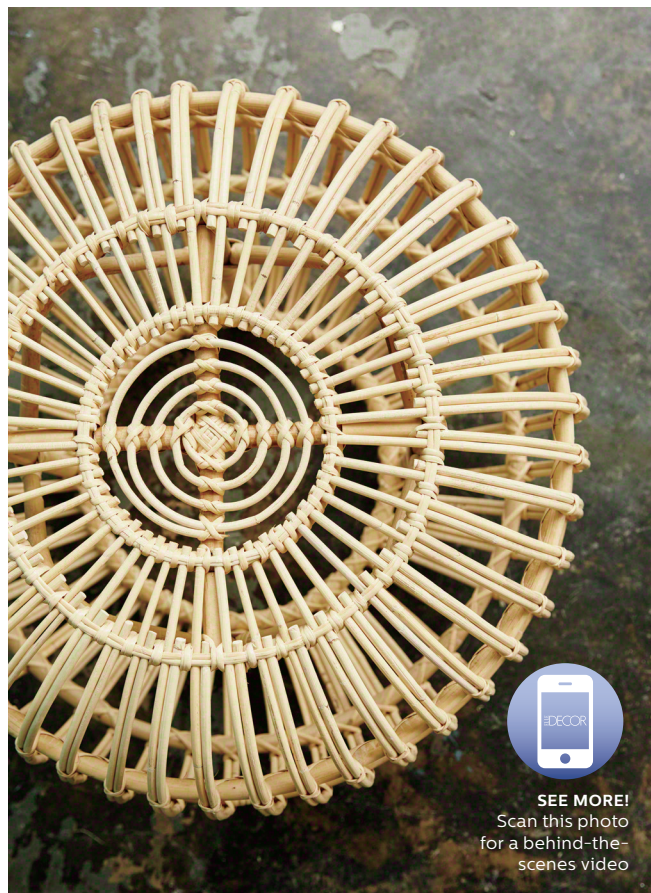
**AN:** This feels like a piece of sculpture. The design creates a fascinating pattern of light and shadow. I would put it in front of a lacquered wall, with luminosity and color for the matte metal to play off of.

**JL:** The metalwork, made from repurposed cast-iron fence pieces, is very cool. It's got a hip, industrial vibe. I picture this in a very modern, all-white, Vicente Wolf-style high-rise apartment.

\$3,200; 61" w. x 20" d. x 34" h.; [uhurudesign.com](http://uhurudesign.com).

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## THE TOP 10 RATTAN PIECES

*Rattan may be traditionally associated with summer, but designers Darren Henault and Brett Beldock find that it weaves a powerful spell in any season*

Sure, you can still find tiki-style sofas with tropical-print cushions à la *The Golden Girls*. And nothing evokes a lazy summer like a creaky rattan rocker on a shady front porch. But these days, designers are exploring rattan's creative possibilities.

Native to the forests of Southeast Asia, rattan is a climbing palm used for constructing everything from bridges to birdcages. Though it bears a passing resemblance to bamboo, it's stronger and heavier due to its solid core.

"Rattan is a tropical material, so it conveys warmth and ease," says Darren Henault. At the same time, he adds, "it can be quite sophisticated. Marie-Hélène de Rothschild and Marella Agnelli would add wicker to a room in the most refined way."

Brett Beldock plans to use colored rattan for her new house in Southampton. "I'm imagining a navy rattan headboard with a Lucite lamp and steel side tables," she says. "Rattan is a throwback, but it can also look very modern." ▶

TEXT BY CATHERINE HONG / PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID A. LAND / PRODUCED BY ORLI BEN-DOR

### THE EXPERTS

#### BRETT BELDOCK

Beldock, a former fashion designer, is known for eclectic interiors full of color. The native New Yorker also creates wallpaper, rugs, and furniture for her company, Brett Design. [brettdesigninc.com](http://brettdesigninc.com)

#### DARREN HENAULT

An unabashed maximalist, Henault has designed luxurious rooms with a sense of old-world grandeur since opening his Manhattan firm in 1997, after a stint in advertising. [darrenhenault.com](http://darrenhenault.com)



## 1 / CURVED RATTAN BED BY ANTHROPOLOGIE

**DH:** This isn't just a bed—it's basically an entire room for \$2,000. I want to put it in a 1950s-style beach bungalow with big sheets of glass overlooking the dunes.  
**BB:** Yes, it's a statement in itself. The curved headboard gives the bed a big presence and a feeling of shelter, while its openness keeps it light. The shape also recalls a boat, which gives it an island vibe.  
 83" w. x 79" d. x 63.5" h.; \$1,998; anthropologie.com



## 2 / NOODLE ARMCHAIR BY KENNETH COBONPUE

**DH:** The use of rattan wrapped around steel in this curvilinear fashion feels fresh—it reminds me of a Spirograph. It's a cool, funky chair, and yet it still retains its rattan-ish aura.  
**BB:** I like how the freeform wrapping of the structure is set off by the simple stainless steel legs. It comes in multiple colors, and I'd like to see one of each around a big wood table in a breakfast room or kids' area.  
 24" w. x 23" d. x 31" h.; \$950; kennethcobonpue.com



## 3 / OTTOMAN BY FRANCO ALBINI FOR SIKA DESIGN

**BB:** I love that when you look through this from different points of view, you can see many unique patterns. Albin designed it in the 1950s, but it also looks very '70s. I would pop it in front of a cashew-colored Ultrasuede chair.  
**DH:** This feels skeletal and sculptural, which I like. The cut ends of the rattan let you see what it's made of. Throw this in anywhere, and it will work.  
 25.5" dia. x 15.5" h.; \$510; sika-design.us



## 4 / PRESIDENT'S SHELF BAR BY PALECEK

**DH:** Adding a bar makes a room more fun. This one is a little bit Adirondacks with a touch of Dean Martin in Palm Springs.  
**BB:** To me it's Palm Beachy. We're yearning for the glamour of an earlier era, and rattan's retro feeling brings you there.  
**DH:** This has tons of storage for glasses, towels, an ice bucket.  
**BB:** It could even work as a breakfront, with spaces for dishes, napkins, and silver.  
 45" w. x 26" d. x 37" h.; \$2,338; palecek.com



## 5 / TIBURON CLUB CHAIR BY WILLIAMS-SONOMA

**BB:** You could use this indoors or outdoors—it's a classic for a covered porch. I could see it with cushions in a big banana-leaf print. It's massive—it brings another dimension to rattan.  
**DH:** The construction is sturdy, and it's very comfortable. Because of its size, you wouldn't put this on a city terrace, but it would be a natural for a house in Palm Beach or the Hamptons.  
 33.5" w. x 34" d. x 32" h.; \$995; williams-sonoma.com

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**6 / 809 CHAISE BY MARIO BONACINA FOR VITTORIO BONACINA**

**BB:** The tight weave, lacquered finish, and narrow form make this extremely sophisticated. It's very Mies van der Rohe.

I see it with espresso-brown woods, perhaps a hide rug.

**DH:** It's sleeker and more polished than most rattan pieces. I imagine it with Christian Liaigre furniture, maybe in front of a fireplace. It's pricey, but it's an excellent piece of furniture.

24" w. x 62" d. x 29" h.; \$4,990; [propertyfurniture.com](http://propertyfurniture.com)



**7 / PASSAGE SIDE CHAIR BY LAURA KIRAR FOR MCGUIRE**

**DH:** This piece is the one that looks the most appropriate for indoors. Because it's not overly sculptural, you could easily use this in multiples in a bar or games room.

**BB:** I like the contrast between the solid rattan frame and the woven back. And the finish takes it to another dimension—this could work with cerused pieces or distressed woods.

23" w. x 24" d. x 35" h.; \$3,170; [mcguirefurniture.com](http://mcguirefurniture.com)



**8 / FONTAL DINING ARM-CHAIR BY OSCAR TUSQUETS BLANCA FOR EXPORMIM**

**BB:** This reminds me of Josef Hoffmann and Thonet. And I like the wicker seat, which you could top with a cushion. It would pair beautifully with a sleek black slate or glass-topped table.

**DH:** One of my favorites. It's peeled rattan, so the finish feels raw—you could use it more places than ordinary rattan. It would even make a groovy office chair.

23" w. x 22" d. x 32.5" h.; \$890; [en.expormim.es](http://en.expormim.es)



**9 / RATTAN MODERNE HANGING PENDANT LAMP BY BAMBECO**

**BB:** I like its rusticity—it's fun. It would be great for a kids' hangout room with big sofas and giant pillows on the floor, maybe with textiles from John Robshaw or Madeline Weinrib.

**DH:** I can imagine it in a family room with tons of intense color. I wouldn't use it with more rattan. It has to differ from its surroundings to keep it from feeling too '70s.

23.5" dia. x 24" h.; \$498; [bambeco.com](http://bambeco.com)



**10 / MADRID BARSTOOL BY DAVID FRANCIS FURNITURE**

**DH:** This is a cool barstool. It's got an appealing slouchiness, especially from the side, and I like the colors. It's also one of the most comfortable stools I've ever sat on.

**BB:** Yes, it's a good height, and it even gives a little when you lean back. I like the way the arc of the back sort of hugs your body. Rattan takes on color really well, and this comes in more than 30 shades.

20" w. x 21" d. x 43" h.; \$1,560; [davidfrancisfurniture.com](http://davidfrancisfurniture.com)

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## THE TOP 10 SETTEES

*Penny Drue Baird and Kerry Joyce find that these small-scale pieces don't just make a statement, they can be the most versatile seat in the house*

It may be a cousin of the sofa, but the settee is no slouch. Whereas the former invites curling up in front of the TV, the latter is decidedly more dignified. With its narrower seat and upright back, the settee provides seating of a semiformal nature and brings a touch of design flair to any room.

"It's not for long-term lounging," says interior designer Kerry Joyce. "But sometimes it's precisely what a small space needs. For instance, you can

put one in an entrance foyer or under a staircase, where you don't require the comfort of a sofa."

Penny Drue Baird sees the settee, whatever its style, as an appealing alternative to a bench—after all, it's an upholstered descendant of the medieval hardwood settee. "It is handsome at the foot of a bed or in a corridor," says the decorator. "You wouldn't build a room around one, but the right settee can add the perfect finishing touch." ▷

### THE EXPERTS

#### PENNY DRUE BAIRD

A passionate Francophile, Baird—whose firm, Dessins, has offices in Paris and New York—creates interiors that are richly layered and full of personality. She recently published her third book, *Dreamhouse*. [dessinsllc.com](http://dessinsllc.com)

#### KERRY JOYCE

This Los Angeles decorator, a former set designer, has crafted classic, luxurious interiors for more than two decades. He also designs lines of textiles, furniture, lighting, and rugs. [kerryjoyce.com](http://kerryjoyce.com)

TEXT BY CATHERINE HONG / PHOTOGRAPHY BY BARNARD & MEYER / PRODUCED BY ORLI BEN-DOR





## 1 / TOULON SETTEE BY NIERMANN WEEKS

**PDB:** This Neoclassical-inspired settee feels very one-of-a-kind and rather old-world. I could see it in a Victorian-style home in Atlanta or Charleston.

**KJ:** This one is a bit eccentric, so it needs to be used in the right mix. There are some living room pieces that function well for parties, and this could be one. I can imagine people perching on the seat, or leaning over the open back.

66" w. x 22.5" d. x 34" h.; \$10,760; [niermannweeks.com](http://niermannweeks.com)



## 2 / CH162 SOFA BY HANS J. WEGNER FOR CARL HANSEN & SON

**KJ:** This is a simple piece, but it definitely has style to it—for instance, the dowel detailing on the flared arm. I could see it in a man's office or a tailored bedroom.

**PDB:** It's a classic midcentury design that has a sporty feel. It would be nice with other wood pieces in the same color tone. But the cushions feel a little skimpy.

54" w. x 31.5" d. x 30" h.; \$6,560; [carlhansen.com](http://carlhansen.com)



## 3 / NADINE SOFETTE BY BERNHARDT

**PDB:** This settee is very deep, so it's nearly as comfortable as a sofa. The top reads a little heavy to me, a bit high—I would add throw pillows in a contrasting fabric.

**KJ:** For the price, you can't beat it. The turned leg and nailhead detail are nice additions, lending this one a traditional English feeling.

72" w. x 37.5" d. x 40" h.; \$2,015; [bernhardt.com](http://bernhardt.com)



## 4 / SETTEE BY LEE INDUSTRIES

**KJ:** The lines are clean and beautiful, and the single long cushion adds a modern touch. Because the side silhouette is quite pretty, I can see a pair facing each other.

**PDB:** That back cushion offers a nice degree of comfort. This is a versatile piece that could work almost anywhere—a living room, a bedroom, a hallway, or a library.

73" w. x 31" d. x 32" h.; \$4,093; [leeindustries.com](http://leeindustries.com)



## 5 / SIREN BANQUETTE BY HOLLY HUNT

**KJ:** Holly Hunt always does wonderful pieces of excellent quality. The walnut finish is handsome, and the back and side profiles are attractive. It's comfortable, too.

**PDB:** This would look equally cool pulled up to a dining table or used as additional seating. The leather seat is slightly cantilevered—a thoughtful design element.

46" w. x 25" d. x 33.5" h.; \$5,500; [hollyhunt.com](http://hollyhunt.com)

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**6 / NIVOLA SOFA BY  
POLTRONA FRAU**

**PDB:** This settee has everything. I love the stitching, and the play of the two different shades of leather, which adds a layer of interest. It would sit beautifully surrounded by rich brown woodwork.

**KJ:** The leather is going to age really well—it will still be handsome even after the upholstery gets a little beat up. It would be terrific for a small apartment, or in a home office. 66.5" w. x 31.5" d. x 29.5" h.; \$10,560; poltronafrau.com



**7 / SWAN SOFA BY ARNE JACOBSEN FOR REPUBLIC OF FRITZ HANSEN**

**PDB:** Everything old is new again. This iconic piece is from 1958, yet it still feels absolutely modern. It's fun and will add charisma to a room.

**KJ:** This is very sculptural—it's perfect for a smaller room. The back has a wonderful hand-sewn detail where the two pieces of fabric come together. 57" w. x 29" d. x 31" h.; \$9,753; suiteny.com



**8 / BERKELEY SETTEE BY RICHARD MISHAAN FOR BOLIER & CO.**

**KJ:** The steel legs of this settee have a particularly feminine flair. It's sleek but still pretty. Ideal for a foyer, or as a breakfast table banquette—its depth is perfect.

**PDB:** It has a very tailored, minimalist look. Although the back is not very forgiving, there's a surprising amount of seating because the arms take up so little space. 48" w. x 27" d. x 32" h.; \$5,955; bolierco.com



**9 / SWEDISH SETTEE BY WISTERIA**

**KJ:** The shape of this is very pretty. It has real charm—lovely in a little girl's bedroom or a garden room. But I would switch out the cushion for something a bit softer.

**PDB:** Yes, you wouldn't want to sit on this for any length of time. But it has a rustic, summery appeal, and I could see it in a country house or sunroom. 71" w. x 24" d. x 40" h.; \$2,199; wisteria.com



**10 / GILT FAUX BAMBOO SETTEE BY FLAIR**

**PDB:** This piece is cool. It has its own funky flavor, and the fact that it can be used indoors or out is a plus. I see it on a Palm Beach loggia, though in a different fabric.

**KJ:** I visualize it in a sunroom, upholstered in a romantic fabric. Its best feature is the interesting trellis back, so you should avoid putting it against a wall. 46" w. x 30" d. x 30" h.; \$5,500; flairhomecollection.com

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