

## TRUTH IN DECORATING

Lee Kleinhelter and Timothy Whealon with tables by, from left, Cedric Hartman, Gus Modern, Council from



## The Top 10 Occasional Tables

Interior designers Timothy Whealon and Lee Kleinhelter size up an array of small, convenient side tables that make a big statement

Text by Laura Regensdorf · Photography by Joshua McHugh · Produced by Quy Nguyen

Whether you're hosting friends for drinks or settling into a chair with a good book, a nearby table is always welcome. Since the weightier cocktail table tends to stay put, having a few smaller, nimbler pieces is key: They're free to migrate from seat to seat, room to room, rising to whatever occasion is at hand.

"Occasional tables are one of the most important elements in finishing a room," says decorator Timothy Whealon. "They make a room look cozier. If you have a table next to a chair, it's inviting." He often

breaks with convention for these versatile pieces. Sometimes he uses low stools as an extra surface; other times he looks for tables that add a wild color or texture to a space, "like the last touch to a canvas."

Lee Kleinhelter, of the Atlanta home boutique Pieces, agrees that occasional tables are starting points for experimentation. Going with an offbeat or unexpected style isn't a huge commitment, she says. Plus, simply rearranging them can be a creative endeavor. "All of a sudden, you have a different room." ▶

### THE EXPERTS

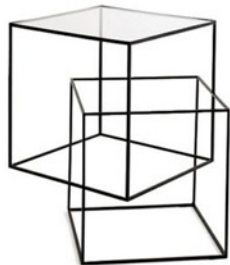
#### LEE KLEINHELTER

A decorator by training, this Southern stylesetter helms Pieces, an Atlanta home furnishings shop with a focus on freshened-up vintage finds. [piecesinc.com](http://piecesinc.com)

#### TIMOTHY WHEALON

This New York designer mixes antiques, bespoke furniture, and sleek modern pieces to elegant effect. Case in point: his own Southampton cottage ("A Simple Plan," June 2010). [timothywhealon.com](http://timothywhealon.com)

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**1 THIN BLACK TABLE BY NENDO FOR CAPPELLINI**  
 "This is playful, but it's also very sophisticated," says Timothy Whealon of the 20"-tall, 18"-wide table. The two open-sided, interlocking cubes are framed in lacquered steel, with a sheet of extra-light glass on top. He visualizes a pair flanking a settee in an entryway, where the sculptural design would make a bold first impression.  
**\$1,440; cappellini.it**



**6 MODEL AE TABLE BY CEDRIC HARTMAN**  
 "I love the curve of the legs," says Kleinhelter, admiring the refined 1970s design. "This would be at home in a chic, formal setting." The 23"-tall, 17"-dia. table (available to the trade) is shown with a nickel-silver-alloy base and a marble top, which she says looks "both delicate and substantial"; a range of bases and tops is also available.  
**\$4,650; cedrichartman.com**



**2 SLIM ROUND END TABLE BY ROOM & BOARD**  
 With its simple shape and affordable price, this earns Lee Kleinhelter's praise: "There's no better clean-lined and smart-looking piece for the money." The 20"-tall, 15"-dia. table is available in natural steel and a rainbow of durable finishes—perfect for adding a bright accent to a play area or covered porch, she says.  
**\$189; roomandboard.com**



**7 SIDE TABLE BY CHELSEA TEXTILES**  
 "A beautiful Swedish-style piece, compact and well executed," says Whealon. "Even the hardware has a nice patina." The 29"-tall, 20"-wide table includes a drawer divided into compartments—ideal for a foyer or hallway—and a hidden candle stand. The paint finishes are spot-on, he adds: "This chalky gray-blue is hard to achieve."  
**\$900; chelseatextiles.com**



**3 PIERRE CHAREAU T-STOOL BY ECART INTERNATIONAL FOR RALPH PUCCI**  
 "You can't go wrong with this," says Whealon of architect Chareau's 1927 classic (available to the trade). The lacquered-steel frame, 19" tall by 16" wide, is designed to bear weight (or weighty objects, such as art books); the gently curved oak seat comes in a range of stains, including black.  
**\$2,280; ralphpucci.net**



**8 COPENHAGEN TABLE BY MICHAEL SMITH FOR JASPER**  
 This Neoclassical column with a thick top is perfectly proportioned, says Kleinhelter. She pictures the 27"-tall, 28"-dia. table (available to the trade) dressed with a vase in a foyer or large living room. "A design this strong should stand alone," she says. In addition to gesso, shown, custom finishes are offered.  
**\$4,480; michaelsmithinc.com**



**4 FAUX BOIS SIDE TABLE BY COBBLE HILL FROM ABC CARPET & HOME**  
 "It's a nice juxtaposition of iron and marble," says Whealon of the white powder-coated base and honed top. "I like the organic quality of the faux-bois metalwork—it's very evocative." He sees the 21"-tall, 17"-dia. table next to a chaise longue, or a pair beside living room armchairs.  
**\$395; abchome.com**



**9 I-BEAM TABLE BY GUS MODERN**  
 Taking its form from the construction-site staple, this Lucite table has strong lines and a subtle presence, says Kleinhelter. "Because it's transparent, it's good for any space that has a lot going on." Given the small scale—18" tall by 12" square—it can mix with low-slung seating and is a convenient place for a lamp or to set a drink, she says.  
**\$345; bobbyberkhome.com**



**5 47 TABLE BY COUNCIL FROM DESIGN WITHIN REACH**  
 "Elegant yet understated," says Kleinhelter of this reclaimed-Douglas fir block coated in silver. "The finish is a glamorous touch, but the table doesn't need a high-glam setting," she says, adding that it could work in an all-white room or as an unexpected element in a traditional space. And at 19" tall and 11" square, it's well suited to tight quarters.  
**\$1,200; dwr.com**



**10 ELIZA TABLE BY JAN SHOWERS COLLECTION**  
 "Very open, very poetic, very simple," says Whealon of this table, which reminds him of Art Deco furniture. "I like that it's all one material—sycamore." He would place the 22"-tall, 22"-wide piece (available to the trade) beside a low sofa or upholstered chair, positioned to emphasize its crossed legs and shapely silhouette.  
**\$3,000; janshowers.com**

The opinions featured are those of ELLE DECOR's guest experts and do not necessarily represent those of the editors. All measurements and prices are approximate. For details see Resources.