

Tamzin Greenhill and Chad Eisner with dining chairs by, from left, Jacques Guillon by Avenue Road, Studio MatterMade, and Jasper Morrison for Cappellini. See Resources.



## THE TOP 10 DINING CHAIRS

*Designers Tamzin Greenhill and Chad Eisner pull up a seat and find these stylish essentials to be the perfect companions for any dinner party*

Communal meals have always been a binding force for families and even nations, as this month's turkey dinner reminds us. But while the food lures people in, it's the dining chairs that hold the group together, from the first bite till long after the last.

That is, if the chairs are comfortable, says designer Chad Eisner. "I'd sacrifice aesthetics to comfort any day," he says. Proportions are key: What is roomy to one might be cramped to another. He also likes to mix side chairs (nimble and narrower) with arm-

chairs (more relaxing). When judging a chair, Eisner advises looking at it from all angles: "More often you will see it from the back, not the front."

Decorator Tamzin Greenhill says to envision a chair in multiples: "There may be as many as six or eight, so you don't want them to be overwhelming." Otherwise, she has few rules. For a recent project she paired a traditional farmhouse table with Eames chairs—a testament to the end of the era of matching dining sets ("Thank God!" she says). ▷

### THE EXPERTS

#### CHAD EISNER

This Southern California designer brings a background in architecture and a warm, tailored style to his interiors. His projects include a London loft and a ski lodge in Vail, Colorado. [cwetsner.com](http://cwetsner.com)

#### TAMZIN GREENHILL

The British-born New York decorator mixes clean-lined furnishings and pops of glamour, as seen in her lounge and office for ELLE DECOR's Miami showhouse. [tamzingreenhill.com](http://tamzingreenhill.com)

TEXT BY LAURA REGENSDORF / PHOTOGRAPHY BY SJÖRN WALLANDER / PRODUCED BY QUY NGUYEN

## TRUTH IN DECORATING



### 6 / MANCHEZ SIDE CHAIR BY CASAMIDY

Made of powder-coated wrought iron, this is ideal for a covered outdoor dining area, like a loggia, according to Greenhill. "I like the simplicity of the black, waxed cotton against the ornate frame," she adds. To Eisner, the whimsical, French-inspired design invites experimentation: "Upholstered in a bold graphic pattern, this would be striking in a young woman's apartment." The chair comes in other finishes and c.o.m. 22" w. x 20" d. x 35" h.; \$750; [casamidy.com](http://casamidy.com)



### 7 / GLENNA SIDE CHAIR BY ROSE TARLOW MELROSE HOUSE

"Beautifully proportioned and so comfortable—this is a chair for a three-hour dinner party," says Eisner. "I could see this being handed down from generation to generation." Greenhill admires the handsome nailheads and envisions the wood-and-leather piece (available to the trade) in a grand country house. Custom options are offered. 21" w. x 25" d. x 38" h.; \$3,900; [rosetarlow.com](http://rosetarlow.com)



### 8 / CH33 CHAIR BY HANS J. WEGNER FOR CARL HANSEN & SON

"Hans Wegner created unbelievable chairs," Greenhill says, and his reissued 1957 design is no different: "This small-scale piece packs a lot of oomph." The chair has "a back that envelops you," says Eisner. "It has a real sculptural quality—it reminds me of a Calder mobile." Optional seat upholstery and additional finishes are available. 22" w. x 19" d. x 29" h.; \$785; [carlhansen.com](http://carlhansen.com)



### 9 / PILOTTA CHAIR BY RODOLFO DORDONI FOR CASSINA

With its sleek leather upholstery and white-stained ash frame, this "looks like it could have been made for an Italian sports car," says Eisner. "It's contemporary, but I'd use this in a traditional dining room to add a youthful punch." Greenhill pictures it in an urban loft. "It's a clever design—the curved seat is comfortable, and the lines are gorgeous." 21" w. x 22" d. x 32" h.; \$1,449; [cassinausa.com](http://cassinausa.com)



### 10 / GEORGIA CHAIR BY ROOM & BOARD

This tailored chair could serve dual functions in small quarters, says Eisner—for example, transitioning from a dining area to a work space. "From the back, the legs have a strong architectural quality," he adds. Greenhill singles out the fabric for praise: "It's reminiscent of the work of Yayoi Kusama, which is so hot right now." Standard and custom fabric options and wood finishes are available. 18" w. x 23" d. x 33" h.; \$399; [roomandboard.com](http://roomandboard.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.*