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The 10 Coolest Club Chairs

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## The 10 Coolest Club Chairs

Katie Lydon and Jay Jeffers settle in to rate ELLE DECOR's picks of the cushiest and most comfortable seats in the house

Text by Julie V. Iovine • Photography by David Jacquot • Produced by Alison Hall

Of all the furnishings in a room, the club chair has the widest range of personalities. A glance will tell which is the strong, silent type and which tufted number has perthouse pretensions. Some people see the difference more in cultural terms: the deep-seated comforts of an oversized English club chair versus the restrained pose of its French cousin. And in choosing one, the criteria are as much personal as aesthetic. Will the chair serve as a place of refuge for an afternoon of reading? Then you'll want one with arms wide enough to sling a leg over and a back

high enough to support a relaxed neck. Buttery-soft leather will inevitably induce a nap. Or if you're more sociably inclined, leaning into a good conversation, look for a show-off armchair, one as stylish as it is comfortable. Katie Lydon, a Londoner now based in New York who appreciates a modern style that's rooted in the classics, and Jay Jeffers, a San Francisco designer who lives and works by the mantra "sophisticated fun," evaluate the many moods and subtle variety of the modern club chair, a destination all its own.



**1 FRENCH CLUB CHAIR BY HOLLY HUNT**  
 "Real sit and interest," raves Jeffers. "Look at that V-shaped back. I'd love to see it paired with a patterned ottoman." Lydon admits its "feminine and formal" lines. "Unlike the traditional oversize club chair," she adds, "this one has very real proportions." Height: 31", width: 31", depth: 32", seat height: 14", material: mohogany frame in dark mahogany finish (other finishes available) with down-wrapped foam fill, delivery: 14 weeks, price: \$2,720 a.s.p.



**2 ORSON LOUNGE CHAIR BY ROBERT LIGHTON FURNITURE**  
 "A truly successful adaptation," says Lydon. "It's contemporary but still evokes that country-house aesthetic," Jeffers adds. "The side and back views are especially appealing. That's important since club chairs are rarely placed against a wall." Height: 29", width: 36", depth: 40", seat height: 18", material: mahogany frame in standard finish (other finishes available) with polyester and down fill, delivery: 9 weeks, price: \$4,100 a.s.p.



**3 ELLIS CHAIR BY MITCHELL GOLD + BOB WILLIAMS**  
 "An elegant take on the Deco classic," proclaims Jeffers. "The top stitching on the back is the wonderful touch. It's great value for the money." Lydon loves its scale. "Ideal for a small urban apartment. Even a pair wouldn't overwhelm a room." Height: 31", width: 31", depth: 34", seat height: 20", material: hardwood frame in coffee-bean finish (other finishes available) with polyester fill and leather upholstery (other fabrics available), delivery: 3-4 weeks, price: \$2,100



**4 HARRINGTON CHAIR BY JONATHAN ADLER**  
 "A bit retro-Bauhaus, a bit Hollywood glamour," says Lydon. "So it works with many styles," Jeffers admires its detailing and finishes. "The curved legs and button tufting are lovely, especially at this price." Height: 29", width: 34", depth: 35", seat height: 17", material: wood frame in espresso finish (other finishes available) with down-wrapped foam fill (all-polyester fill also available) and polyester upholstery (other fabrics available), delivery: 8-10 weeks, price: \$1,499



**5 THORNTON CHAIR BY KRAVET FURNITURE**  
 "This one's definitely a stealer," Jeffers pronounces. "It's got feminine lines and its profile tapers nicely." Lydon also considers it refined and elegant, and is especially taken with the fabric and color. "Mohair is soft but hearty, and holds its shape," she says. "And pink—what a novel choice!" Height: 33 1/2", width: 34", depth: 34 1/2", seat height: 22", material: hardwood frame in mahogany finish (other finishes available) with foam and fiber fill and mohair upholstery (other fabrics available), delivery: 8-8 weeks, price: \$3,400



**6 MOHAIR CHAIR FROM THE PINE CONE HILL HOME COLLECTION BY LEE INDUSTRIES**  
 "Fantastic for curling up alone," says Jeffers. "As if it needs a silk pillow! And the castor feet are a classic touch." For Lydon, its quality is paramount. "The light, rich fabric says it's well made, and it's so versatile you can use it virtually anywhere." Height: 30", width: 30", depth: 30", seat height: 19", material: wood frame in black-walnut finish with down fill and mohair upholstery (other fabrics available), delivery: 8-10 weeks, price: \$2,720



**7 CAPTON ARMCHAIR BY ROOM**  
 Lydon calls this one "tailored but relaxed," and adds, "I'd love it at all beach houses in blue climates with a white piping." Jeffers admires its tufting and contrasting welt. "It's a contemporary update of a 1920s silhouette," he says. "Very smart." Height: 31", width: 30", depth: 30", seat height: 17", material: maple frame in Jacobean finish (other finishes available) with down-wrapped foam fill (other fills available), delivery: 9 weeks, price: \$2,700 a.s.p.



**8 THEATRE ARMCHAIR BY TED BURNER FROM DENHAM WITHIN REACH**  
 "It speaks Italian," jokes Jeffers. "With its chrome legs, it's very clean and self-posessed. Yet I could still relax in it with a cocktail." Lydon agrees. "Sleek and sophisticated," she says. "And the leather is lovely." Height: 30", width: 31", depth: 30 1/2", seat height: 19", material: wood frame with chrome-plated steel legs, down-wrapped foam fill, and leather upholstery (other fabrics available) in ultrasuede, delivery: 3-4 days, price: \$1,799



**9 TABARIN ARMCHAIR BY POLTRONA FRAU**  
 "Definitely a man's chair," proclaims Lydon. "I can see my husband relaxing here with his laptop and tons of work," Jeffers concurs. But points out the fine workmanship and detailing, including the leather-covered nailheads. "That's unique." Height: 30", width: 31 1/2", depth: 31 1/2", seat height: 17", material: beechwood frame in dark-walnut finish with non-slip seating and down cushion, and leather upholstery and nailhead (other colors available), delivery: 10-14 weeks, price: \$3,400



**10 ARMCHAIR BY NATUZZI**  
 "Every home needs one of these," said Lydon, flopping down and pressing one leg over an arm. "It's like an English club chair that's gone skiing in Jackson Hole," Jeffers notes that its thin arms allow for a wider seat. "It's the ultimate for relaxation," he notes. "Rustic but sophisticated, and perfect for a brandy by a roaring fire." Height: 34", width: 30", depth: 30", seat height: 18", material: wood frame in orange finish with foam and fiber fill and cowhide upholstery (other fabrics available), delivery: 12 weeks, price: \$2,179