

# ELLE DECOR

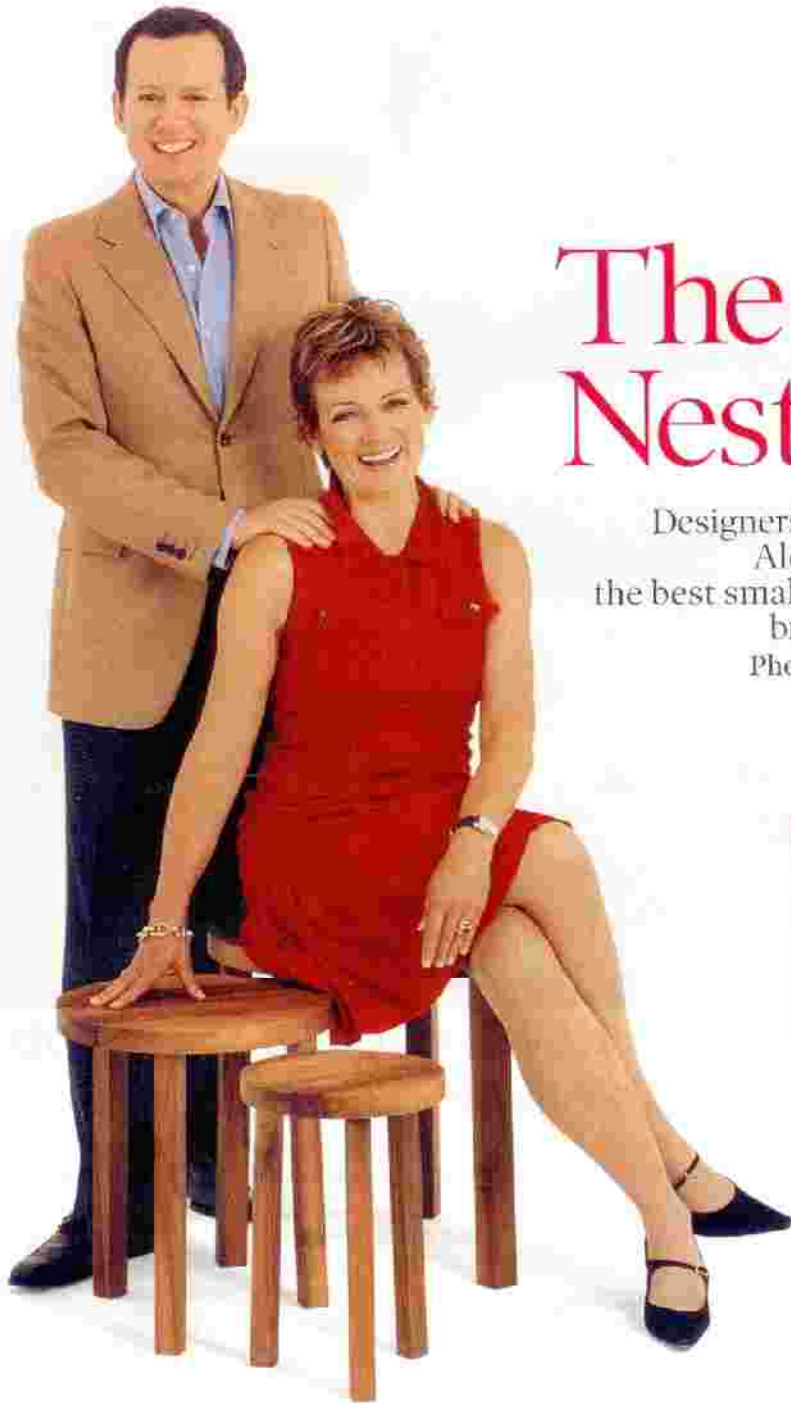
cool  
and  
classic

## Tradition Gets Hip

5 Stylish Family Homes  
Dramatic Dining Rooms  
Sarah Jessica Parker's  
Chic Retreat



fresh energy



# The 10 Niftiest Nesting Tables

Designers Alexandra Champalimaud and Alex Papachristidis size up the best small side tables, and find that they can bring a triple dose of style

Photography by Pierre Chanteau

Produced by Alison Hall



When nesting tables were first devised in England in the late 18th century, they were often called “quartetto tables,” since a complete set was comprised of four. But who has room for that many tables these days? So nesting tables usually come in sets of three—and they can be a trio of the most stylish and useful pieces in any room.

Of course, they’re ideal for space-challenged urban apartments, but even in a grand room, nesting tables can stand out, since they pack plenty of concentrated style. They provide lots of surface area with a

minimum of bulk, so they’re wonderful for displaying collections of small objets d’art. Or pull them apart when entertaining, and there will always be a place to put down your glass of champagne.

Designers Alexandra Champalimaud, who endows her work with European panache, and Alex Papachristidis, known for his luxurious take on classic style, agree that practicality is an important consideration when choosing a set. But they point out that the best nesting tables also bring warmth, wit, and a distinct personality to a room. 15



**1 NESTING TABLES BY JOHN BLACK FOR COUNCILL**  
 "So versatile," raves Champalimaud. "With their champagne color and antique finish, they complement any style." Papachristidis also finds them elegant. "The triangular shape is great for a room that has a lot going on," he says. "They're small—but they still have a ton of personality." Largest: length: 24"; height: 24"; depth: 24"; material: maple in antiqued-silver finish (available in other finishes); delivery: 10–12 weeks; price: \$2,140



**2 ALEX NESTING TABLES BY e15 FROM TROY**  
 "Such good design," says Papachristidis. "And they're sturdy—I see them in a family room or kitchen. I love their primitive modernism. They're a bit bohemian, though—I don't know how they'd mix." Champalimaud disagrees. "I see them anywhere, from a city apartment to a rustic country house. You could even use them as seats." Largest: diameter: 19"; height: 19.25"; material: walnut (available in oak and maple); delivery: immediate; price: \$1,795



**3 LEATHER NESTING TABLES BY DCC FROM HOMER**  
 "The mitered corners and the top-slitching on the leather show that someone really thought about the details," Champalimaud notes. "They'd be chic next to a chaise or a modern bed." Papachristidis likes their tailored style. "Ideal for a man's office or bedroom," he says. Largest: length: 20"; height: 22.5"; depth: 14"; material: leather-wrapped wood frame; delivery: immediate; price: \$2,110



**4 CRISP NESTING TABLES FROM THE CONRAN SHOP**  
 "I adore Lucite, these are a wonderful value, and they're handy at a party," says Champalimaud. "I see them in a dark apartment, adding a little sparkle." Papachristidis finds them more versatile. "They work even in traditional rooms. And they look terrific split up or together." Largest: length: 20"; height: 16"; depth: 15"; material: transparent Lucite; delivery: 6–7 days; price: \$475



**5 BRITISH PASSAGES NESTING TABLES BY BERNHARDT**  
 "Glamorous, handy, and what a price!" exclaims Papachristidis. "The size and scale make them practical. And the mirror adds a shot of drama." Champalimaud agrees. "These are fantastic. The style works with almost anything. I can see these being used all the time." Largest: length: 24"; height: 21"; depth: 18"; material: metal frame in galvanized-steel finish with Inset Summer Cloud antiqued-mirror top; delivery: 4–6 weeks; price: \$699



**6 NESTING TABLES BY THOMAS PHEASANT FOR BAKER**  
 "Lovely and contemporary, but with flair," says Champalimaud. "And they're tall and strong enough for a lamp—many are too flimsy for that." Papachristidis finds them "solid yet airy—a combo you don't see often. But the white leather top is fragile." Largest: length: 37"; height: 26.25"; depth: 18"; material: antique-brass frame with leather top in ivory (available in espresso leather or with lacquer top); delivery: 6–8 weeks; price: \$3,240



**7 LACQUER NESTING CUBES BY JONATHAN ADLER**  
 "A fun color, and the lacquer is beautiful," says Champalimaud. "They might scratch easily, though, so buy these more for the look." Papachristidis concurs: "I love the cubes. But I like them less as nesting tables than as a sculpture." Largest: length: 18"; height: 18"; depth: 18"; material: lacquered wood (available in other colors); delivery: immediate; price: \$1,300



**8 FAT FAT SMALL TABLES BY PATRICIA URQUIOLA FOR B&B ITALIA**  
 "These are ideal for a casual loft or beach house," says Papachristidis. Champalimaud finds them appealing. "They look charming together, and they can be moved around easily during a party. Really useful and fun." Largest: diameter: 36.25"; height: 15"; material: castle metal in Gesso finish (available with black-nickel top and/or chrome base); delivery: 10–12 weeks; price: \$1,699 (also sold individually)



**9 GIRARD NESTING TABLES BY ROBERT LIGHTON NEW YORK**  
 "A modern take on a classic 18th-century set," says Papachristidis. "I like the scale of all three, which is key if you want to use them individually." Adds Champalimaud: "They're elegant without being stuffy. I'd prefer them in a light finish to give them a more casual air." Largest: length: 35"; height: 25"; depth: 18"; material: solid teak in dark-cerused finish (available in other finishes); delivery: 8 weeks; price: \$2,195



**10 BLACK PAINTED NESTING TABLES BY JULIA GRAY**  
 "Chinese Chippendale meets Jean Cocteau," says Champalimaud. "There's something playful in how the tables extend from the narrow side." Papachristidis considers them feminine. "Just the thing for a lady's bedroom, where you need space for books, the phone, all that stuff." Largest: length: 33"; height: 25"; depth: 28"; material: painted wood in black with antique-gold-leaf trim (available in other finishes); delivery: 12 weeks; price: \$3,600