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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 Chateaucu
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 objects of art. Or pull them apart when entertaining, and there will always be a place to set down your glass of champagne. Designer 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.

Alex Papachristidis and Alexandra Champalimaud take sets of tables to #15 and Council. See Resources.

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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 EGG 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 stools." Largest: standard 19"; height: 18 1/2"; material: natural (available in oak and maple); delivery: immediate; price: \$1,560



3 LEATHER NESTING TABLES BY DCC FROM HOMER
"The natural corneal and the top stitching on the leather show that someone really thought about the details," Champalimaud notes.



4 NESTING TABLES BY THOMAS PHEASANT FOR BAKER
"Lovely and contemporary, but with hip," says Champalimaud. "And they're still strong enough for a long—many are too strong for that." Papachristidis finds them "solid yet airy—a sturdy yet don't see often. But the white leather top is bright." Largest: length: 30"; height: 24 1/2"; material: antique-brass frame with leather top in ivory (available in espresso leather or with leather top; delivery: 8-6 weeks; price: \$2,290



5 LACQUER NESTING TABLES BY JONATHAN ADLER
"A fun mix of the best of both worlds," says Champalimaud. "They might scratch easily, though, so look them over for the look." Papachristidis concurs: "I love the cubes. But I like them less as nesting tables than as a table." Largest: length: 18"; height: 14"; width: 10"; material: lacquered wood (available in other colors); delivery: immediate; price: \$1,690



6 FAT FAT SMALL TABLES BY PATERICIA URQUIDIA FOR BURT TALLIA
"These are ideal for a casual loft or beach house," says Papachristidis. Champalimaud finds them appealing

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Councill

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2004-011 Nesting Tables by Councill.

As seen in ELLE DECOR magazine.