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THE TOP 10 KLISMOS CHAIRS

Designers Amy Lau and Brad Ford find that the graceful curves of this ancient Greek form transcend time, remaining as pertinent and practical as ever

You can't get more classic than the klismos, a chair developed by the ancient Greeks. Although no original specimens survive, period depictions on painted pottery and in carvings at the Acropolis of Athens have given us a clear idea of how they looked. Distinguished by a rounded backrest and curved, tapered legs, the chair is light, elegant, and remarkably ergonomic. The klismos resurfaced in the mid-18th century during a period of renewed interest in Greek architecture, was championed through

the 20th century by T. H. Robsjohn-Gibbings, and continues to stake its delicate perch in homes today. "That the klismos is still relevant says so much about how well designed it is," says decorator Brad Ford. "Its lines are incredibly graceful, and it stands up to any number of interpretations." Designer Amy Lau agrees: "The klismos feels simultaneously old-world and contemporary. The key is its sculptural silhouette. It's expressive, unique, and completely timeless." ➤

TEXT BY CATHERINE HONG / PHOTOGRAPHY BY BARNARD AND MEYER / PRODUCED BY ORLI BEN-DOR

THE EXPERTS

BRAD FORD
The Manhattan-based decorator is known for understated, sophisticated interiors with handcrafted touches. Last year he founded Field + Supply, an annual modern maker fair in New York's Ulster County. [bradfordinid.com](#)

AMY LAU
Lau's passion for modern art, bold color, and bespoke pieces has informed her luxurious residential projects and retail spaces since she founded her New York firm in 2001. [amylaudesign.com](#)



1 / SANTORINI CHAIR BY DRAGONETTE LTD.

BF: This is a fun one. It makes an impact in acrylic—it looks light and airy, but feels substantial. I would use it with a vanity or in a powder room for a modern effect.

AL: The acrylic is thick, but they've paid attention to the details, such as the faceting on the back and sides. It would be great on its own in a bath or bedroom. 23" w. x 25" d. x 35" h.; \$4,800; dragonetteltd.com



2 / LAYTON CHAIR BY NOIR

BF: I really like the juxtaposition between the classical form and the rattan. And it's versatile—you could use it in a sophisticated setting or a more casual interior, like a beach house. It's superlight, too.

AL: The caning is well executed, even on the underside, where manufacturers often cut corners. I can see four around a breakfast table, or a single one in a living room.

23.5" w. x 29.5" d. x 35.5" h.; \$925; hudsonboston.com



3 / GUSTAV SIDE CHAIR BY BERNHARDT

AL: This has a polished steel frame—it's rare to see a classical chair with such a playful, unexpected finish. I'd use it in a bar or game room, or place it beneath a glass chandelier.

BF: It definitely has a high glamour quotient. I'd try it as a one-off, maybe in a poolhouse, where its shimmer could echo the reflective quality of the water.

22.5" w. x 23" d. x 36" h.; \$1,225; bernhardt.com



4 / ATHENS LOUNGE CHAIR BY THOMAS PHEASANT FOR BAKER

BF: This takes the klismos from a side chair to a lounge chair. The dark finish gives it a formal quality, and the tufting feels traditional. With the interesting bar across the back it would look great floating in a space.

AL: You could have a pair leading into a room, so that you approach them from behind. I love how the bronze accents mimic raffia.

31" w. x 33" d. x 30" h.; \$7,518; bakerfurniture.com



5 / PALISADES DINING SIDE CHAIR BY ARHAUS

AL: A perfect example of the versatility of the klismos design—it can even be re-created as an aluminum outdoor chair. It's practical, but with an understated elegance.

BF: Sometimes outdoor furniture is overthought, with too many bells and whistles. This chair is simple enough that it could suit any number of settings, traditional or modern. It's also a terrific value.

22" w. x 25" d. x 38" h.; \$699; arhaus.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.



6 / CONTEMPORARY KLISMOS BRASS CHAIR BY SCALA LUXURY

AL: This is like a gorgeous art piece. The webbed leather gives it an artisanal feel and makes for surprisingly comfortable seating. I love the lightness of the leg.
BF: It's handsome from every angle. The brass and leather are masculine, but the lines are light and graceful. Just use one—too many and it loses its uniqueness. 20" w. x 27" d. x 34.5" h.; \$8,000; monc13.com



7 / KLISMOS UPHOLSTERED CHAIR BY RESTORATION HARDWARE

AL: An extremely successful adaptation with lots of thoughtful details, from the rough-hewn edges to the welting on the upholstery.
BF: A klismos normally has a wide back, but this is appealingly compact—you could fit a number around a dining table. I adore the finish, which gives the oak frame an aged appearance. The value is incredible. 20" w. x 23" d. x 35" h.; \$299; rh.com



8 / ATHENS CHAIR BY FRONTGATE

BF: Impressive. This is one of the most classic takes on the klismos, which is all the more extraordinary considering it's an outdoor chair made of cast aluminum. The nailhead details are a nice touch.
AL: I really like the finish—it almost resembles weathered marble. The proportions are just right. And the price point is remarkable. 23" w. x 30" d. x 36" h.; \$995 for a set of two; frontgate.com



9 / SUSSEX CHAIR BY OLY

AL: It's klismos meets country—a loose interpretation of the classic form. You could have multiples of this and it wouldn't feel overwhelming. The charcoal gray finish is very beautiful.
BF: I like the thick, substantial webbing of the seat and the modest scale, ideal for a dining chair. I'd put a few of these in a country house around a simple, painted-wood pedestal table. 21" w. x 25" d. x 35" h.; \$1,825; olystudio.com



10 / FULGENS CHAIR BY ANTONIO CITTERIO FOR MAXALTO

BF: Because of the lines and the glossy black finish, this would work best with contemporary or midcentury pieces. You could float it in a room to show off the rounded back.
AL: Antonio Citterio's chairs are so clean and elegant. I particularly like the upholstered back, which is unusual for a klismos. Truly comfortable, with impeccable proportions. 27" sq. x 28.5" h.; \$4,497; maxalto.it

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