



The 10 Most Stylish Barstools

Designers Matthew Patrick Smyth and Katie Ridder weigh in on ELLE DECOR's prize perches

Text by Peter Webster · Photography by Pierre Chanteau · Produced by Tori Mike

Long the province of nightclubs and cocktail lounges, barstools have come into their own in the home. "I've bought more barstools for clients in the past year than ever before," says interior decorator Katie Ridder, "usually as perches in the kitchen, either for eating or doing homework." Fellow decorator Matthew Patrick Smyth has also witnessed the increase in supply and demand. "It used to be a challenge to find a stool that didn't look like it had escaped from a tiki bar," he says. "Now designers are coming up with many examples that are as stylish

and practical as any other piece of well-thought-out furniture." There are a couple of points to keep in mind, however. "First of all, always judge a barstool from the back," advises Smyth. "The front will be tucked under a counter most of the time, so you really won't see it much." And because the setting tends to be casual, people don't necessarily sit up straight on stools. "Children in particular like to bounce around on them," Ridder adds, "so be sure to choose a model that's stable and sturdy as well as great-looking." ▶



1 BNO BARSTOOL BY BENJAMIN NORIEGA-ORTIZ

"I adore Lucite," says Ridder, who's smitten with this coolly elegant piece, calling it "an absolute classic."

Smyth is equally taken with the barstool, especially the beveled edges. "It's a marvelously inventive detail, like sterling-silver trim, that separates the stool from low-quality plastic versions."

Height: 45"; width: 17"; depth: 19"; seat height: 30" (available in other sizes); material: acrylic; delivery: 2-3 weeks; price: \$950