

SITTING PRETTY

No longer only functional, chairs are an important decorative element. Whether enhancing a sidetable or punctuating an entranceway, chairs provide much-needed inspiration. The following chairs can add just the right accent and may be useful when that unexpected guest pops up. *By Margaret S. Guzek*

MUSICAL CHAIRS

"I like the idea that the backs appear to 'float' in the air," notes designer Sally Sirkin Lewis. These drum and box chairs feature one-inch-thick acrylic posts (barely visible from certain angles) that join the backs to the seat. Each chair has concealed casters and double needle detailing on the seams of the butter-soft kidskin upholstery. Left: Drum chair, suggested retail \$2,200, J. Robert Scott 877-207-5130. Right: Box chair, suggested retail \$2,200, J. Robert Scott 877-207-5130.



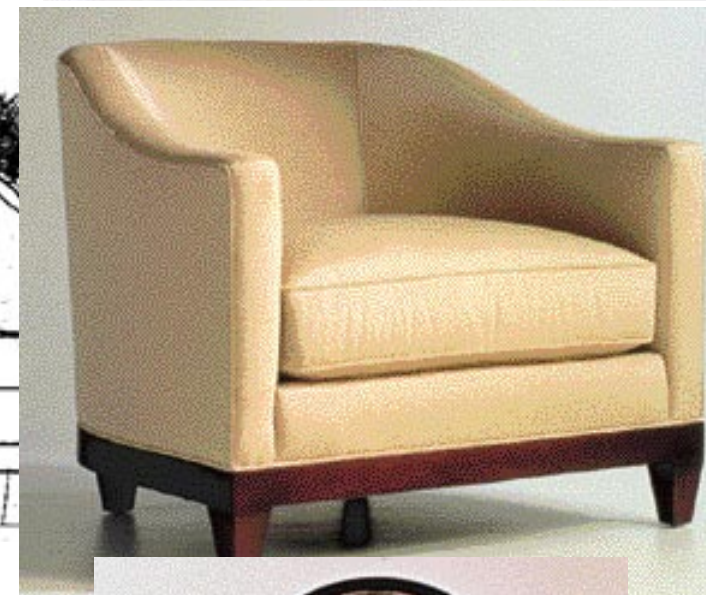
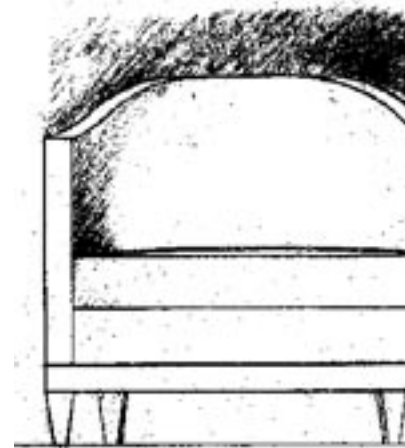
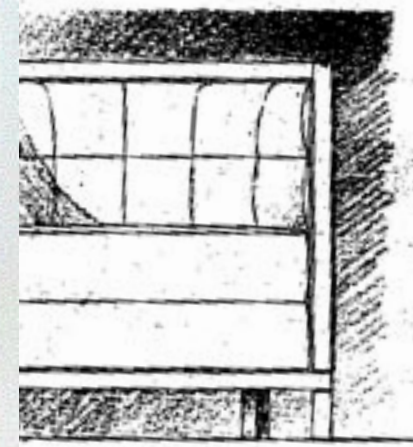
FIT FOR A KING

And a queen, too. This George III open armchair, straight from the Victoria and Albert Museum Collection, was selected for its carved oval back and fluted seat rail. This reproduction has a padded back and padded, out-curved arms for comfort. Downswept, square spreading arm supports are headed by roundels and decorated with husks and Grecian palm flowers. Suggested starting retail \$4,050, John Widdicomb Co. 800-847-9433.



CREATURE COMFORT

The round tufted club chair with its enveloping style for pampered comfort may be exactly what's needed after a long day at work. Designed by Michael Vanderbyl, this piece was inspired by 1930s modernism, yet exudes a character all its own. With its rounded shape and deep seat, it has an engaging manner and easy charm. Suggested starting retail \$2,756, Baker 800-59-BAKER.

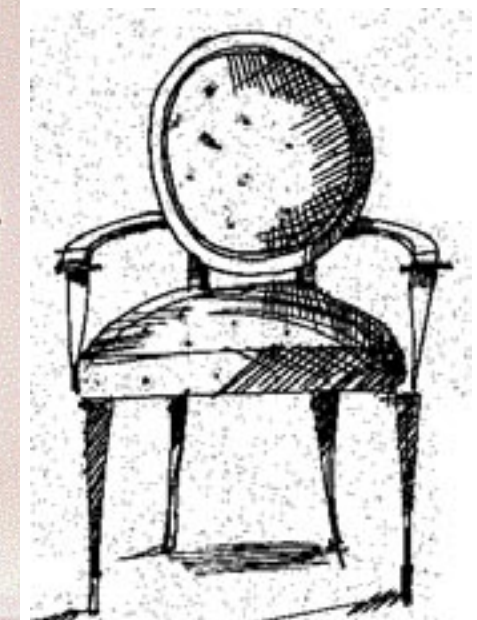


MODERNISM REVISITED

Forget the millennium; modernism is still providing inspiration. Inspired by the designs of Jean-Michel Frank and 1930s modernism, Michael Vanderbyl created this generously proportioned lounge chair. The tub lounge chair, featuring exposed, tapered wood legs, is plush luxury in a silk cover or masculine in leather. Suggested starting retail \$2,186, Baker 800-59-BAKER.

UNDERSTATED ELEGANCE

This twentieth-century Art Deco arm chair exudes a simple elegance with its graceful curves, oval concave back, and upholstered seat and seat rails. Designed by Larry Laslo, this piece has back legs that are flared and front square tapered legs, which have a polished nickel-plated sabot. Suggested starting retail \$2,475, John Widdicomb Co. 800-847-9433.





DOUBLE TAKE

Bring a little fun into your world with designer George Nelson's Marshmallow Sofa. Forty-three years after its debut, it still manages to turn heads and is as comfortable as its name suggests. Comfort comes from 18 cushions (upholstered in your choice of fabrics or leathers) that float on a brushed tubular steel frame with satin black legs. Cushions can be detached for easy cleaning. Suggested retail \$3,200-\$4,200 depending on fabric options. Available through various retailers. Call 800-646-4000 or log on www.hermanmiller.com for more information.

PROOF POSITIVE

Using strong, lightweight wood veneers, the molded plywood lounge chair is comfortable, practical, and proven. Designed by Charles and Ray Eames, possibly the most unpretentious lounge chair ever made is designed to fit the contours of the human body. Walnut and natural cherry clear coat veneers are also available. Suggested retail \$716. Available through various retailers, Call 800-646-4000 or log on www.hermanmiller.com for more information.

