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Tamzin Greenhill and Chad Eisner with dining chairs by, from left, Jacques Gullon by Avenue Road, Studio MatterMade, and Jasper Morrison for Cappellini. See Resources.



THE TOP 10 DINING CHAIRS

Designers Tamzin Greenhill and Chad Eisner pull up a seat and find these stylish essentials to be the perfect companions for any dinner party

Communal meals have always been a binding force for families and even nations, as this month's turkey dinner reminds us. But while the food lures people in, it's the dining chairs that hold the group together, from the first bite till long after the last.

That is, if the chairs are comfortable, says designer Chad Eisner. "I'd sacrifice aesthetics to comfort any day," he says. Proportions are key: What is roomy to one might be cramped to another. He also likes to mix side chairs (nimble and narrower) with arm-

chairs (more relaxing). When judging a chair, Eisner advises looking at it from all angles: "More often you will see it from the back, not the front."

Decorator Tamzin Greenhill says to envision a chair in multiples: "There may be as many as six or eight, so you don't want them to be overwhelming." Otherwise, she has few rules. For a recent project she paired a traditional farmhouse table with Eames chairs—a testament to the end of the era of matching dining sets ("Thank God!" she says). ▸

TEXT BY LAURA REGENSDORF / PHOTOGRAPHY BY BJÖRN WALLANDER / PRODUCED BY QUY NGUYEN

THE EXPERTS

CHAD EISNER

This Southern California designer brings a background in architecture and a warm, tailored style to his interiors. His projects include a London loft and a ski lodge in Vail, Colorado. cweisner.com

TAMZIN GREENHILL

The British-born New York decorator mixes clean-lined furnishings and pops of glamour, as seen in her lounge and office for ELLE DECOR's Miami showhouse. tamzingreenhill.com



1 / WAYLAND SIDE CHAIR BY O&G STUDIO

"I love this color—it's like your grandmother's chair was given a makeover," says Chad Eisner of this streamlined take on a traditional Windsor. "And the price is great." Tamzin Greenhill pictures the playful piece in a casual setting, such as a country house. Given the generous scale, she would use a pair of them at the ends of a table, mixed with other seating. Made of maple and ash, the chair can be ordered in a range of finishes. 25" w. x 23" d. x 42" h.; \$680; oandgstudio.com



2 / WOVEN SIDE CHAIR BY MARK ALBRECHT FROM SUITE NEW YORK

To Greenhill, the woven leather lends this chair a masculine feel. "The seat gives a little, so it's really comfortable," she says. Eisner likes the mix of black steel and brown leather, and admires how light shines through the straps. "I would pair this with a glass-top table, so you can see the weaving," he suggests. Other leather options and steel finishes are offered. 19" w. x 21" d. x 32" h.; \$1,410; suiteny.com



3 / BAC CHAIR BY JASPER MORRISON FOR CAPPELLINI

"This chair has a simple elegance," says Eisner, adding that it's reminiscent of Chinese furniture. "The design is so open and airy, it could lighten up a room," he adds. Greenhill is a fan of the white-stained ash and curved arms. "I see this in both a modern, formal room and a family breakfast area," she says. The chair comes in a variety of finishes. 21" w. x 20" d. x 29" h.; \$940; www.cappellini.it



4 / SHAKER CHAIR BY STUDIO MATTERMADE FOR MATTER

The woven fabric tape on this chair may nod to Shaker style, but the ebonized-ash frame is refreshingly contemporary, says Greenhill: "The lines are so clean, from the angular legs to the double struts." Eisner points out that the webbing adds an appealing texture. He imagines the chair alongside a rustic table. Additional seat and frame variations are offered. 20" w. x 18" d. x 32" h.; \$1,540; mattermatters.com



5 / JACQUES GUILLOIN CORD CHAIR BY AVENUE ROAD

"Extremely sexy—it's *Fifty Shades of Grey* meets *Catwoman*," Eisner says of this black-stained wood chair, which has a cord seat and back. Greenhill agrees: "It's chic, with an edge." She praises the craftsmanship, adding, "It's more comfortable than it looks." Other frame and cord options, as well as a leather seat pad, are available. 23" w. x 23" d. x 34" h.; \$1,095; avenue-road.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. For details see Resources.