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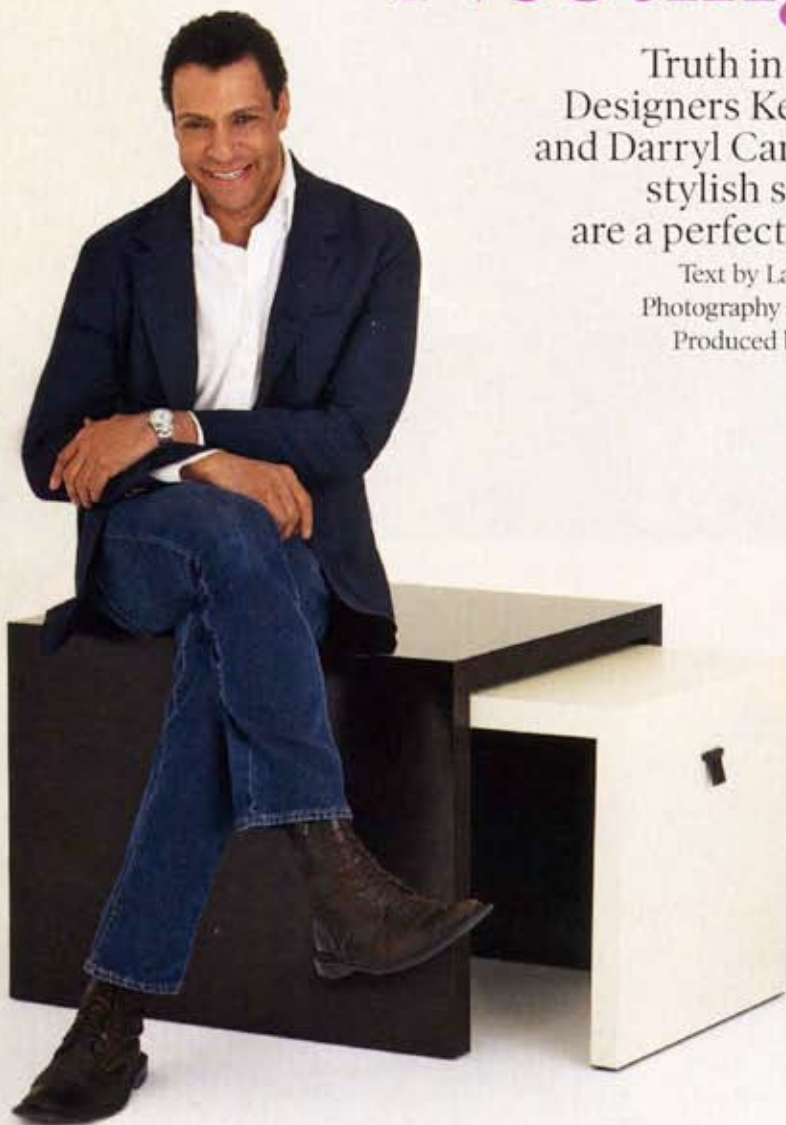


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The Top 10 Nesting Tables

Truth in Decorating:
Designers Kendall Wilkinson
and Darryl Carter find that these
stylish space-savers
are a perfect fit for any room

Text by Laura Regensdorf
Photography by Joshua McHugh
Produced by Parker Bowie



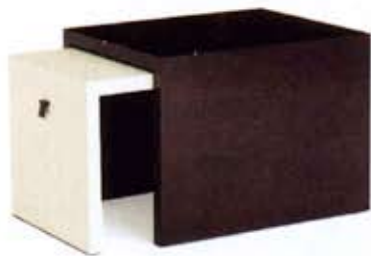
Darryl Carter and Kendall Wilkinson with nesting tables by Calvin Klein Home (left) and Worlds Away. See Resources.

Two centuries ago English furniture designer Thomas Sheraton popularized the versatile *quartetto* table—a four-piece stacking set that graduated in size. Stowed together and arranged around a room as needed, the components served as movable stations for checkers and needlework, but before long they became associated with a more convivial pastime: drinking.

Today nesting tables, the descendents of quartettos, typically come in groups of two or three, but are equally handy for entertaining. "When you're having a large gathering, there's always a place

to set a glass," says Darryl Carter, a Washington, D.C.-based decorator. Bay Area designer Kendall Wilkinson considers nesting tables to be the modern take on TV trays: "These have a more pleasing look, but they're just as functional." Carter even transforms the sturdier models into additional seats.

Beyond propping up food, drinks, and guests, nesting tables can sit in front of a sofa or alongside a bed, and—with their varying heights—add visual interest. Plus, you can rearrange them any which way, says Carter. "They're like DNA you can play with." ▶



1 WALNUT PARCHMENT NESTING TABLES BY CALVIN KLEIN HOME

"This pair is absolutely simple, but has great presence," says Darryl Carter of the clean-lined duo. "There's no gratuitous embellishment, and I love the play of the two finishes"—dark walnut on the larger table and faux parchment on the smaller. "I imagine these boxy objects in a room with highly carved antiques," he says. Largest: height: 22"; length: 30"; width: 24"; material: walnut in dark-walnut and faux-parchment finishes with brushed-nickel-and-leather pull; delivery: 2 weeks; price: \$1,150; calvinklein.com



2 GRAND TOUR NESTING TABLES BY PRIDE SASSER FOR CENTURY FURNITURE

"These are definitely the most dressy," says Kendall Wilkinson. "I like how the faux tortoise gives them texture and depth. You can treat them like fashion accessories that complement the room." The bronze feet, she says, add "that little sparkle." Largest: height: 26.25"; length: 20"; width: 15.75"; material: mahogany sheathed in faux-tortoise parchment with bronze hardware; delivery: 2-4 weeks; price: \$2,685; centuryfurniture.com



3 TRIADE NESTING TABLES BY ROCHE BOBOIS

For Carter, this set earns applause for its disappearing act: "I love it because it doesn't have any visual mass. It could go anywhere and just vanish." Modestly sized with rounded edges, the tables are suited to low-slung seating. "You could put two together as a cocktail table," he says. The third could be a lightweight catchall that migrates as needed. Largest: height: 13.75"; length: 19.25"; width: 15.75"; material: Lucite; delivery: 20 weeks; price: \$1,460; roche-bobois.com



4 MANDARIN NESTING TABLES BY WORLDS AWAY

"These are fabulous and really well priced," raves Wilkinson of this Asian-inspired set. "With mirror surfaces and a metallic finish, the tables are jewel-like." Praising the airy lightness and sculptural lines of the frames, she sees the tables standing on their own—the larger against a wall and the smaller one pulled up beside a chair. Largest: height: 26"; length: 24"; width: 16"; material: iron in antiqued-gold-leaf finish with antiqued-mirror tops; delivery: immediate; price: \$735; worlds-away.com



5 PAULEY NESTING TABLES BY OLY

"This looks like a Motherwell painting," says Carter, admiring this grouping of petal-shaped tables. "The set is cool and organic, with a great abstract quality." He'd station the free-form pieces in front of a sofa, either in a stepped row or a cluster, allowing the tripod legs and sleek shell-inlaid tops to take center stage. Largest: height: 21.25"; length: 17.25"; width: 15.75"; material: aluminum in antiqued-bronze finish with dark shell-inlaid-hardwood tops (also available with white shell-inlaid tops and legs in other finishes); delivery: 12-14 weeks; price: \$3,200; olystudio.com



6 BALTHAZAR NESTING TABLES BY JACQUES GARCIA FOR BAKER

"The smoky color of the bronze finish is versatile, whether it's in a monochromatic setting or a colorful one," says Wilkinson. The slim tops and tapered yet sturdy legs give these three metal tables a contemporary feel, she says. "Their height calls for tall ceilings and a sofa with a high back and arms." Largest: height: 29.25"; length: 18.75"; width: 11"; material: solid brass in bronze-patina finish; delivery: 4-6 weeks; price: \$3,675; bakerfurniture.com



7 DOC BY EVANGELOS VASILEIOU FOR LIGNE ROSET

When fanned out, this three-part retractable marble table resembles a seashell and immediately makes Carter think of Miami. "There's something free about it. It's very sculptural—I see it as a piece of art." The table would work in a spare, open space, he says, and would be ideal alongside a low-profile platform bed. "It's often a challenge to find a bedside table that's practical and easy to reach." Overall: height: 14.25"; diameter: 38"; material: chromed steel with Carrara-marble top; delivery: 6-10 weeks; price: \$2,740; ligne-roset-usa.com



8 TWIN NESTING TABLES BY MOURA STARR

"The circular tops and curved bases will soften a room with a lot of right angles," says Wilkinson. A range of glass options means the tables balance other decor elements: "Clear tops will lighten up a space that has heavy furniture," she suggests. Side by side, they offer a wide surface area and modern flair. Largest: height: 17.5"; diameter: 25.5"; material: polished chrome with black-glass tops (also available in brushed chrome, in custom sizes, and with other glass tops); delivery: 12-14 weeks; price: \$4,999; mourastarr.com



9 MIRABELLE NESTING TABLES BY ARHAUS FURNITURE

"With their delicately turned legs, I see these tables in a cottage setting," Carter says. And the set is reasonably priced for a country house, he adds. He envisions the trio bedside: "They're diminutive, so they won't overwhelm your bed, and they give you options depending on your hoarding needs. You can pile on books if you're a heavy reader, as I am." Largest: height: 27"; length: 21"; width: 12.5"; material: solid alder and alder veneer in black finish (also available in yellow finish); delivery: 4-6 weeks; price: \$399; arhaus.com



10 LACQUER NESTING TABLES BY JONATHAN ADLER

"Very functional, given the larger scale," says Wilkinson of these high-gloss geometric tables. She'd anchor the biggest piece next to a sofa, with the smaller two in front. "Lacquer can be both modern and traditional," she says. White would be at home in a bright, poppy setting, while the chocolate version fits against more subdued tones. Largest: height: 19.75"; length: 23.75"; width: 15.75"; material: wood in white-lacquer finish (also available in chocolate-lacquer finish); delivery: immediate; price: \$995; jonathanadler.com