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Christina Sullivan, left, and Susan Bednar Long of New York's Tocar Interior Design try out corner chairs by Thomas Pheasant, left, and Andrée Putman. See Resources.

The 10 Most Coveted Corner Chairs

Susan Bednar Long
and Christina Sullivan cozy up to these
surprisingly versatile seats

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Produced by Alison Hall



HAIR AND MAKEUP: MAYSSON FARAU FOR YVES DUREL SALON

Corner chairs are a room's visual sorbet, a jolt of energy in the familiar upholstery landscape. Some have asymmetrical profiles that resemble truncated sofas, while others recall a bergère whose torso twists away from its legs. No matter the style, it's a corner chair's unconventional but charming persona that distinguishes it from its more common peers.

Despite the name, a corner chair isn't meant to be a wallflower. And its profile is merely form following function—old-time courtiers needed a seat that would allow them to settle down while packing a sword at their side. Today the corner chair's diamondlike shape guarantees a tidy fit in a home's petite nooks and awkward spaces, but you would be remiss to exile it to the sidelines. Its curious good looks

deserve a spot in the living room limelight, where that distinctive silhouette can shine in singular splendor.

Solo, corner chairs offer occasional seating, toggling between playing the innocent bystander and being the object of attention. But whether standing alone, dramatically flanking a fireplace, or perching at a window's vista, for instance, their curved or angled backs make them veritable building blocks, allowing for conversation groupings or, if arranged cleverly, an impromptu vis-à-vis.

Susan Bednar Long and Christina Sullivan, founders of the New York interior design firm Tocar, came up with even more uses. Here, they settle down with ten charming corner chairs worthy of taking center stage. ➤



1 CASTLE CORNER CHAIR BY THOMAS PHEASANT FOR BAKER

"I want to take this home with me!" Sullivan practically shouts. "It's elegant and modern. I could see this in a Hollywood starlet's room." Long agrees: "I love the way it mixes the feminine scroll back with a geometric base. I'd like to put a pair in front of a picture window, with the view seen through the cutout." Height: 29.5"; width: 31.5"; depth: 23"; seat height: 18"; material: maple frame in sable finish with polyurethane foam fill; delivery: 6-8 weeks; price: \$2,646 c.o.m.



6 DIVINE RECLINE CORNER CHAIR BY OCHRE

Both women admire the horsehair-covered frame and agree the pillows allow for many upholstery options. "I'd use different fabrics for a fun mix," says Long. Sullivan envisions enjoying it with a cocktail in hand. "It's like a daybed," she explains. "Covering the cushions with a brocade would be really luxurious." Height: 27.5"; width: 35.5"; depth: 31.5"; seat height: 18"; material: fabric-covered beech frame with down-wrapped foam fill [other sizes available]; delivery: 10-12 weeks; price: \$3,600 c.o.m.



2 DOMINO REVERSIBLE CORNER CHAIR BY ANDRÉE PUTMAN FROM RALPH PUCCI

"It's not your typical corner chair," observes Long, "because it can command the center of the room like a classic club chair." Sullivan praises the asymmetrical, camelback shape. "I would arrange four to face each other," she remarks, explaining that the backs would create dramatic sight lines. Height: 34"; width: 33"; depth: 34.5"; seat height: 18"; material: hardwood frame with Dacron-cotton-blend fill [other sizes available]; delivery: 14 weeks; price: \$3,695 c.o.m.



7 ELLA CORNER CHAIR BY MITCHELL GOLD + BOB WILLIAMS

"The green leather makes it feel exotic," says Sullivan, who likes "how the legs give it a feminine look." Long commends its functionality: "This is a workhorse. Its simple shape fits in with traditional or modern interiors because it's subtle, and not overpowering." Height: 32"; width: 27"; depth: 28"; seat height: 20"; material: hardwood frame in coffee-bean finish [other finishes available] with brass casters and polyurethane fill; delivery: 5 weeks; price: \$1,080 c.o.m.



3 ANGOLINO CORNER CHAIR BY ALESSANDRA BRANCA

"This is darling!" says Sullivan. "I'd put it in a child's room." She recommends dressing it in baby-blue linen with a contrasting white welt. "My favorite part is the skirt's curved edges," notes Long. "You don't usually see that. The small size is good for a dressing room. And a graphic print would really jazz it up." Height: 30"; width: 24"; depth: 24"; seat height: 18.5"; material: hardwood frame with down-feather fill; delivery: 10-12 weeks; price: \$3,100 c.o.m.



8 SAVANNAH CORNER CHAIR BY CISCO BROTHERS FROM ABC CARPET & HOME

"This piece is beautiful—the dressmaker detail, the quirky legs," says Long, who also admires its craftsmanship. "To really celebrate its tufting, I would try contrasting buttons." Sullivan sees it covered in white leather. "Use a pair of these in a Palm Beach living room!" she chimes in. Height: 29"; width: 28"; depth: 28"; seat height: 17"; material: hardwood frame in white finish [other finishes available] with brass casters and poly-foam fill; delivery: 8-10 weeks; price: \$2,212 c.o.m.



4 CALAIS CORNER LOUNGE CHAIR BY ROBERT LIGHTON FURNITURE

"I'm crazy about the way the slick wood contrasts with the luxe upholstery," enthuses Long. "I'd cover the pillow with another fabric from the room to tie it together." She points out the chair's elegant back, which has a mahogany spine. Sullivan is a fan of its generous comfort: "It feels like a sofa." Height: 31"; width: 40"; depth: 41"; seat height: 17"; material: mahogany frame in standard finish [other finishes available] with foam-and-down fill; delivery: 6 weeks; price: \$5,750 c.o.m.



9 CORNER CHAIR FROM WISTERIA

"This chair is an art piece on its own, and very majestic," says Sullivan, citing its statement-making Louis XV-style details. As for Long: "I'm a big fan of the limed finish. I would put this in a modern room, to add history and shape. It's a lot of look for little money." Height: 33"; width: 27"; depth: 28"; seat height: 19"; material: mango-wood frame in limed finish with polyurethane fill and cotton upholstery; delivery: 2-3 weeks; price: \$629



5 CHESTER CORNER CHAIR BY TODD HASE FURNITURE

"This needs a navy-and-white pinstripe," notes Sullivan. "And I think Billy Baldwin would approve!" Long concurs: "It's clean and tailored. You could add zing with a patterned fabric." She also comments that it's petite like a side chair, but "comfortable like a club chair, making it perfect for entertaining." Height: 28"; width: 29"; depth: 29"; seat height: 17"; material: maple frame in darkest walnut finish with cotton-and-foam-wrapped Dacron fill [other sizes available]; delivery: 12 weeks; price: \$3,385 c.o.m.



10 COSGROVE CORNER CHAIR BY BRUNSCHWIG & FILS

"The perfect accent chair for a masculine library," explains Long, who finds the back height to be ideal for resting an elbow. Sullivan sees this leather-clad beauty working well in a bedroom. "I'd put two at the foot of the bed," she suggests. "It could also make a terrific vanity chair, it's so regal." Height: 33"; width: 27"; depth: 27"; seat height: 21"; material: hardwood frame in brown old-mahogany finish [other finishes available] with poly-Dacron fill; delivery: 6-8 weeks; price: \$1,920 c.o.m.