



MASTER CLASS

TOM STRINGER ON CHAIRS

"I have a major weakness for chairs—I own too many and love them all. Some are built for comfort, others for style, but it's rare for one to embody both. So I say, stock up! There is always a need for squashy, upholstered pieces that lull you to sleep, as well as prim, upright ones for desks. Antique frames are striking in contemporary spaces; a bright fabric adds a jolt of contrast. Remember, chairs are decorative objects—if your grandma's heirloom is too delicate for sitting, make it a pedestal for a pile of books or a tub-side stack of towels. Whatever you do, don't get rid of it!" —as told to Julia Lewis



DETAILS, DETAILS "Go to town! This Louis XVI-style barrel chair is upholstered in silk with a plush cotton-velvet interior. Silk cord and nailheads add definition."

PINCH SITTERS "Assemble a small army of diminutive antique chairs—they're ideal for occasional use. Flank a console with a pair in your entry hall, or enlist them as extra seating at parties."

A MEMO FROM THE CHAIRMAN

- "Lumbar pillows are my secret weapon—they add major comfort, plus pattern, color, and texture."
- "Ottomans are more interesting when they don't match the chair. Find a pretty vintage stool and upholster it in something special."
- "The bigger the chair, the smaller the pattern. Large prints seem dated fast, so use them sparingly."
- "Mixed chairs can work in the dining room—just be sure to keep seat and back heights consistent."



PERFECT PITCH "Every home needs a few sublimely cozy armchairs like this one. The frame should feel solid and supportive, and good depth and ergonomic pitch are critical. Look for a high backrest, especially if you're tall."