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THE TOP 10 SLIPPER CHAIRS

Designers Kim Alexandriuk and Harry Heissmann get the lowdown on these small, portable chairs that are as entertaining as they are versatile

The armless slipper chair was invented to suit the needs of Victorian women dressed in sweeping gowns, who required a low seat on which to perch while putting on their footwear. But it may have found its true purpose as an entertaining essential. Its compact size and open sides allow a guest to swivel from one conversation to another with ease.

"People tend to love sitting in slipper chairs," says designer Kim Alexandriuk. "They generally have deep and wide seats, which makes them very com-

fortable for lounging." In a living room with limited space, she says, they're easy to navigate around, and many are light enough to pick up and move. "You can keep them in a hallway and bring them in when you need additional seating," she adds.

Designer Harry Heissmann's mentor, Albert Hadley, often placed them in bedrooms, using them as what he called "sick chairs." "When you're lying in bed," explains Heissmann, "someone can sit there and visit you—or serve you breakfast." >

THE EXPERTS

HARRY HEISSMANN

This German-born designer worked with Albert Hadley before opening his New York office in 2009. His philosophy? "Build upon the past and put your spin on it." harryheissmanninc.com

KIM ALEXANDRIUK

The Santa Monica-based Alexandriuk has an eye honed by a career in art conservation. She has designed houses from coastal California to Paris and created tribal-influenced carpets for Doris Leslie Blau. alexandriuk.com

TEXT BY PETER TERZIAN / PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTOPHER CHURCHILL / PRODUCED BY ORLI BEN-DOR



1 NEPAL CHAIR BY PAOLA NAVONE FOR BAXTER

HH: I call this a vo-vo-vo-voom chair—I can imagine a Vargas girl sitting on it to put on her marabou slippers. It would be great at a dressing table in a ladies' boudoir.
KA: It's petite, ideal for someone on the shorter side. The Mongolian lamb fur is lovely—cushy and cozy. It has a sexiness that makes you want to keep petting it. 22" w. x 25" h. x 22" d.; \$3,549; ddenyc.com



2 MODERN ELBOW CHAIR BY WILLIAM HAINES DESIGNS

KA: Although this was designed in 1955, it looks very clean and contemporary. It's most comfortable if you sit with your legs to the side—the ledge at the back is just the right width for an armrest.
HH: You could put two facing each other next to a cocktail table. It can be covered in virtually any fabric—I would love to see it in a dark green leather. 20" w. x 21" h. x 24" d.; \$5,700 (to the trade); proflesny.com



3 DECONSTRUCTED FRENCH SLIPPER CHAIR BY RESTORATION HARDWARE

HH: This looks like a real Paris Sea-market find. At a party, people would gather around it.
KA: A reproduction of a classic at an affordable price point! The lines are beautiful, and it would look good in a modern or traditional interior. It's lightweight, so even more useful.
HH: I couldn't make this for a client for that price. 23" w. x 34" h. x 32" d.; \$695; rh.com

4 DESERT MODERN SLIPPER CHAIR BY RALPH LAUREN HOME

KA: This is oversize, and it would work well in a house in the desert or at the beach. The indoor/outdoor fabric means you can place it near large windows and it won't fade.
HH: It almost looks like a part of a sectional—you could take three and create a sofa. The recessed base makes it appear to be floating, so it doesn't seem massive. 31" w. x 34" h. x 39" d.; \$3,810; ralphlaurenhome.com



5 TRIXIE CHAIR BY ANKASA

HH: This could easily fit two people. It's more of a solette.
KA: You need space for this. It belongs in a larger-scale living room or family room.
HH: It comes in other fabrics. It would also be nice in something like mohair or velvet, or maybe a tribal pattern.
KA: The way it hugs your back feels nice. Even though it doesn't have arms, it envelops you and makes you feel secure. 33" w. x 26" h. x 27" d.; \$2,650; ankasa.com

The opinions featured are those of ELLE DÉCOR's guest experts and do not necessarily represent those of the editors. All measurements and prices are approximate.