

# TRUTH IN DECORATING



## THE TOP 10 CENTER TABLES

*Designers Katie Ridder and Matthew Patrick Smyth take the measure of these welcoming presences, which make strong, stylish statements in any home*

Unlike their side- and cocktail-table kin, which play supporting roles, center tables are often the star attraction in a room, a primary piece of furniture that serves as a focal point, both anchoring a space and heightening its decorative appeal.

“One of the traditional places a center table gets used is in the entryway,” says designer Matthew Patrick Smyth, “so it can be the first thing that greets someone upon walking into a house. A center table offers an opportunity to make a style statement. It welcomes visitors and introduces them to the space.”

Because center tables are unencumbered by sofas or chairs, materials and shapes take on particular significance. “The base, whether it’s sculptural and ornate or pared down and simple, helps set the tone of the room,” says designer Katie Ridder. “People tend to think of center tables as round, but they come in all kinds of wonderful shapes, so what you choose depends on your room.”

**+**  
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AN INTERVIEW  
WITH THE  
DESIGNERS

### THE EXPERTS

#### KATIE RIDDER

Ridder’s deft way with pattern and vivid color results in rooms suffused with energetic refinement. She has designed wall-

paper and fabric  
collections for  
Holland & Sherry.

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[kateridder.com](http://kateridder.com)

#### MATTHEW PATRICK SMYTH

The designer’s subdued, classically inspired interiors radiate livable elegance. His collections include fabrics and wallcoverings for Schumacher and carpets for Patterson Flynn Martin. [matthewsmyth.com](http://matthewsmyth.com)

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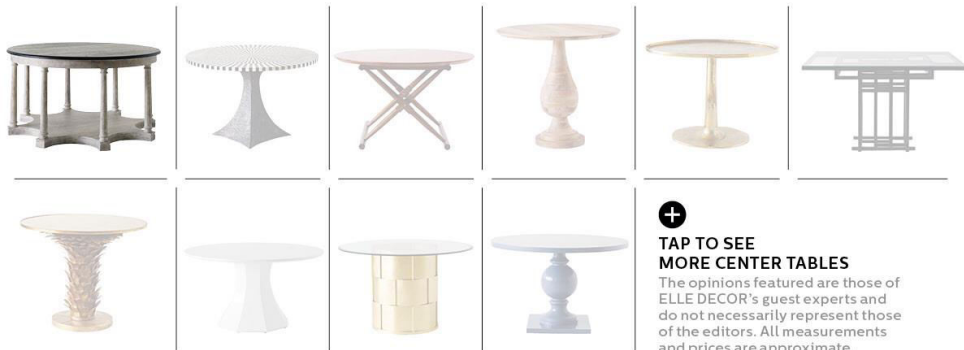
### // DRAYTON CENTER TABLE BY MARY McDONALD FOR CHADDOCK

**KR:** I love the shape. It's made out of oak, so it's hefty. The scale is perfect for a big space.

**MPS:** The classical reference of those columns is clever. I'm thinking about all the things you could put on top....

**KR:** Yes! Books, flowers, all sorts of different tableaux. This almost feels like an antique.

**MPS:** It's a great-looking piece, extremely handsome.  
64" dia. x 34" h.; \$17,322; chaddockhome.com



### + TAP TO SEE MORE CENTER TABLES

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.