

A chic kitchen table will pair well with the other chairs in your home. Philippe Starck's La Marie chairs by Kartell look great beside a small but stylish tripod table. See Resources.



the **10** most accommodating  
After breakfast or supper, a stylish little table's work is far from



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"This stainless-steel table is good-looking and easy to clean," Cohler says. Adds Bridges, "It doubles as a kitchen work island."

# kitchen tables

done, say designers **Sheila Bridges** and **Eric Cohler**





"This makes a fine games table," Cohler says, "and the traditional Regency style looks good in the living room and the kitchen."

## table talk

Tea table, card table, café table . . . by any name, a small table that seats up to four people is ideal for family breakfasts and casual suppers in the kitchen. Here's what to look for when informal dining's on the menu:

- Seating comfort is key. Our experts agree that most people find a 29-inch table to be the perfect height.
- As for style, steer clear of the matchy-matchy dinette look. Don't be afraid to mix, say, a modern chair with a more traditional table—

or Windsor chairs with metal. The best tables work with a wide variety of seating looks, including banquettes.

- If you expect your table to double as a work surface, select a low-maintenance material such as aluminum, steel, laminated plywood, or enamel. These stand up to everything from laptops to hot coffee mugs.
- Movability is a plus, especially if you plan to relocate your table to the living room for a game of Scrabble. Obviously, limestone weighs a lot more than rattan, and casters help.