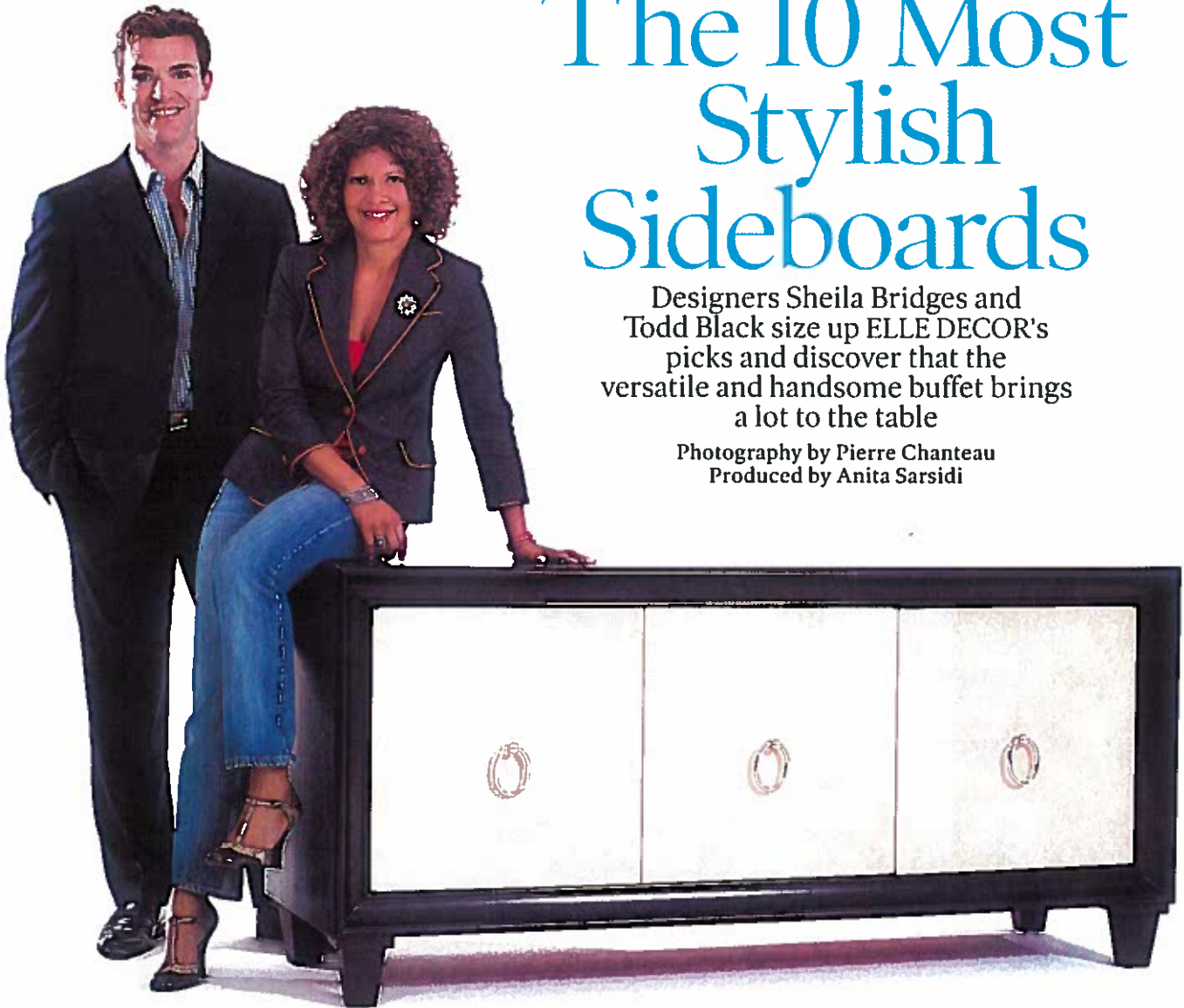


Todd Black and Sheila Bridges get comfortable with the Lucerne buffet cabinet by Michael Berman. See Resources.

# The 10 Most Stylish Sideboards

Designers Sheila Bridges and Todd Black size up ELLE DECOR's picks and discover that the versatile and handsome buffet brings a lot to the table

Photography by Pierre Chanteau  
Produced by Anita Sarsidi



Every so often a piece of furniture seemingly earmarked for the ash heap makes a comeback worthy of an *ER* episode—witness how the armoire returned from the dead to reign supreme as a modern-day catchall for the TV, DVD player, and stereo, and that stultifying snarl of cables and cords that links them.

Only recently that old stalwart, the sideboard, was slated for the Salvation Army. But as more and more homeowners have discovered, sideboards are far from fusty: They can be versatile, stylish, and, best of all, incredibly handy. And they don't take up the valuable wall real estate

a china hutch or an armoire does. As New York-based designers Sheila Bridges and Todd Black explain, the sideboard's long, lean silhouette offers a sleek alternative to the boxy, upright highboy, and its storage capacity makes it useful in any number of rooms. Bridges, who merges high style with creature comforts in her interiors, and Black, known for his cool mix of ethnic and preppy, differ more than once, for example, on whether a low sideboard works in a formal room. But they do agree on one thing. With its unique flair—a combination of Victorian practicality and contemporary verve—the sideboard should no longer be sidelined. ▸

HAIR AND MAKEUP: AUDREY BETHARDS

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**1 ROBERT BUFFET BY OLY**  
 "The mirrored doors make this one really sparkle," raves Bridges. "I'd like it in a room lit with candles. You can fit your stereo on one side and your china on the other. It's the right height, and the price isn't bad." Black is just as smitten. "It can go in any kind of setting," he says, "but it has a personality all its own."  
 Height: 32"; width: 72"; depth: 20"; material: mahogany in dark-brown finish and antiqued mirror (available in black and light-brown finishes); delivery: 8-10 weeks; price: \$2,725



**2 PRIVACY SIDEBORD FROM SALON MODERNE**  
 Black calls the color "very Prada. And the finishing details are beautiful. I would put dishes on one side, a bar on the other, and a big plasma-screen TV on top." Bridges has other ideas: "This is ideal for many spaces, even the bedroom. And it's perfect for storing sweaters."  
 Height: 27"; width: 71"; depth: 21"; material: lacquered wood in mint-green (available in other colors and sizes); delivery: 10-14 weeks; price: \$5,900



**3 LUCERNE BUFFET CABINET BY MICHAEL BERMAN FROM PROFILES**  
 "This is a glam Marilyn Monroe piece, so it definitely should be showcased," Bridges notes approvingly. "Maybe with a big painting above it." Black begs to differ. "It's quirky and elegant," he says, "but it's a little low for a dining room. I'd place it behind a sofa."  
 Height: 31"; width: 66"; depth: 22"; material: mahogany with glazed-parchment doors (available in other finishes and sizes); delivery: 16 weeks; price: \$11,100



**4 VERONA BUFFET FROM CRATE & BARREL**  
 "The antiqued finish is just right, and so is the shallow depth," says Black. "I'd use it in a small space or a hall." Bridges agrees. "It's practical, versatile, good-looking, and inexpensive," she says. "I love the red-painted interior. And the lock lets you use it as a bar if you have kids around."  
 Height: 34.5"; width: 62.5"; depth: 17"; material: antiqued tulipwood with walnut veneer; delivery: 1-2 weeks; price: \$899



**5 MERCER BUFFET BY DISTANT ORIGIN**  
 "The craftsmanship is beautiful," says Bridges. "I'd also like it in a dark wood with light leather, to lend it a more French Modern look." Black, on the other hand, says, "It's incredibly sleek, yet it would work in both modern and traditional settings."  
 Height: 33.5"; width: 71"; depth: 20"; material: teak and buffalo skin with leather pulls (available in other leathers and sizes); delivery: 8-10 weeks; price: \$6,200



**6 NYACK WICKER SIDEBORD BY MARTHA STEWART SIGNATURE FURNITURE FOR BERNHARDT**  
 "This is great for a breakfast room or a covered porch," Bridges says. "The wicker is charming, the details are really thought-out, and the color is pretty." Black has another use for it. "It would be terrific to stow towels in a bathroom," he says.  
 Height: 38"; width: 60"; depth: 20"; material: painted wicker with antiqued pewter hardware; delivery: 4-6 weeks; price: \$1,069



**7 TUKURO RATTAN SIDEBORD BY TUCKER ROBBINS**  
 Black is a definite fan. "It's the most substantial," he says. "I could even see putting one in a bathroom as a vanity. How chic would that be?" Bridges concurs: "I like the ethnic feel and hand-hewn quality. And since the back is finished, it would also work in a kitchen/dining area."  
 Height: 36"; width: 72"; depth: 20"; material: ebonized reclaimed pine and natural rattan (available in other finishes and sizes); delivery: 2 weeks; price: \$2,700



**8 HICKORY MODERN SIDEBORD BY THOMAS O'BRIEN FOR HICKORY CHAIR**  
 "Big Daddy!" exclaims Bridges. "This is for someone who really entertains. You can get silver, china, candles, napkins, and everything else in here," Black adds, "It's formal, no question, but the boxy shape and silver-plate hardware lend it a Deco feel."  
 Height: 41"; width: 76"; depth: 21.5"; material: mahogany in Lancaster finish (available in other finishes); delivery: 2-8 weeks; price: \$4,189



**9 NATURAL TRANSITIONS SIDEBORD BY HARDEN**  
 "This is ideal for a breakfast room or a dining area in a country house," says Black. "You could even paint or stain it a deep color, like the Shakers often did." Bridges appreciates the sideboard's simplicity. "It goes with everything," she says, "and the tapered legs and airy silhouette make it a nice choice for a smaller space."  
 Height: 36"; width: 62"; depth: 22"; material: solid cherry in Burnished Oil finish (available in other finishes); delivery: 8 weeks; price: \$2,338



**10 COFFRE CREDENZA BY PAUL MATHIEU FOR THE ODEGAR COLLECTION**  
 "Full-on exotic glamour," declares Bridges, "yet it will work with either classic or modern interiors. If you want to put anything on top, though, you'll need a sheet of glass." Black agrees, saying the standout piece calls for "a large-scale artwork above it" to balance its heft.  
 Height: 27"; width: 78"; depth: 17"; material: hammered white metal on teak (available in other materials and sizes); delivery: 12-14 weeks; price: \$6,850

The opinions featured are those of ELLE DECOR's guest experts and do not necessarily represent those of the editors. All measurements, delivery times, and prices are approximate. For details see Resources.