

The Top 10 Garden Chairs

Truth in Decorating:
Landscape architect J. Brian Sawyer
and decorator Sheila Bridges
test the best—whether
you're soaking up the sun or
just sitting in the shade

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Sheila Bridges and
J. Brian Sawyer with lounge
chairs by Holly Hunt
(left) and Munder-Skiles.
See Resources.

Once upon a time, if you wanted stylish armchairs for a terrace or garden, your options were limited. “I could never find outdoor furniture I liked,” says interior designer Sheila Bridges. “When I was growing up, everyone had wrought iron. Now garden furniture has become a big lifestyle category. There are so many more materials to choose from, including teak, mahogany, aluminum, resin, and weather-resistant weaves.” She points out that outdoor furniture is so durable some families even use it in playrooms and other kid-friendly spaces. “The wider variety of outdoor fabrics has changed the whole game,” agrees landscape architect J. Brian Sawyer, who

recommends choosing colors that coordinate with the palette of surrounding plants and flowers. “The effect can be really astonishing,” he says. Also, don’t forget to pay attention to scale: Large chairs suit open spaces, whereas compact pieces fit city terraces and townhouse gardens. Make sure to select hardy, weather-resistant finishes for when the elements turn foul. Heavy materials will keep your chairs from blowing into the neighbor’s yard on windy days, but the best garden furniture can be moved easily, Sawyer says. This will come in handy on afternoons when the summer sun turns your comfortable poolside perch into a hot seat. ▷

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY MAYSOON FARAJ