

truth in decorating

The 10 Most Luxurious Leather Club Chairs

Penny Drue Baird and Patrick Gallagher find the meaning of comfort and joy in ELLE DECOR's best-bet laps of luxury

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Penny Drue Baird and Patrick Gallagher with a SoHo club chair by Thomas O'Brien for Hickory Chair Co. and an Acquisitions chair by Henredon.



When the thermometer dips below freezing and the attractions of the electronic hearth beckon, what piece of furniture fills the comfort bill better than a leather-clad club chair? "It's the kind of chair that invites more casual postures," says designer Patrick Gallagher of this typically broad-of-beam, wide-of-arm, deep-of-seat classic. "Basically, a club chair is an invitation to sprawl. When you see one, you know you don't have to sit up straight and mind your manners." Leather club chairs mean comfort—pure, simple, basic. They're versatile, too. Designer

Penny Drue Baird finds them appropriate for just about anywhere in the house: living room, library, den, playroom, or bedroom. She's especially fond of putting them in Hollywood-style screening rooms, lining them up for clients with high-tech accoutrements and movie-mad pals. And you don't have to worry about taking in a double feature with fingers buttery from popcorn. "Most leathers handle wear and tear better than almost any other upholstery," says Baird. "It's the one material whose looks improve the worse you treat it." So sit back, relax, and enjoy. ▶