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Jacqueline Coumans and Robert Couturier with some of their favorite chandeliers, including the Serena by Oly, Thomas O'Brien's Bryant for Visual Comfort, and the Casper from Lampworks. See Resources.



## The 10 Most Chic Chandeliers

Designers Robert Couturier and Jacqueline Coumans shine a light on swank ceiling fixtures

Text by Peter Webster · Photography by Pierre Chanteau · Produced by Tori Mike

Considering its grand associations—palazzi in Venice, ballrooms in Imperial Russia, and, most spectacularly, the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles—the chandelier had a humble start: The French word originally meant candlestick. It was only later that it came to mean a branched light fixture suspended from the ceiling. What hasn't changed, however, are the chandelier's life-of-the-party spirits.

"The first thing I did when I moved into my apartment was hang a beautiful crystal chandelier in the kitchen," says designer Jacqueline Coumans, who's based in New York. "It's so festive and welcoming." Fellow New York decorator Robert Couturier is also a devotee, using chandeliers—lit with candlepower whenever possible—both at home and for clients. "It's such a gorgeous living light," he says. >

HAIR AND MAKEUP: BRIGITTE PHELIPPE/STYLING AT BRIGITTE PHELIPPE





**6 SERENA CHANDELIER BY OLY**

"The shells give off a wonderful soft light," says Couturier. "It's a stylish piece, but not over-the-top—I'd treat it as a casual accent rather than a statement piece so that it doesn't get lost in a grand space." Coumans concurs, saying she'd hang one at either end of a sofa or put several in a large room "where they wouldn't be overwhelming." Height: 33"; diameter: 28"; material: metal frame with antiqued-silver finish and capiz shells (available in other sizes); delivery: 4-6 weeks; price: \$1,475

**7 TWIG CHANDELIER BY IRONIES FROM TUI PRANTICH**

"This would be terrific for a country dining room, though I'd definitely use candles in it," says Couturier, who also likes the "rough-hewn, organic character." Coumans finds the fixture's rustic charm appealing, too. "I would put one over a round dining table and add silk lampshades for an even warmer effect." Height: 42"; diameter: 29"; material: wrought-iron frame with twig-colored finish (available in other finishes and sizes); delivery: 10-12 weeks; price: \$3,300

**8 STELLARE CHANDELIER BY DONGHIA**

"It has a movie-star boudoir quality," Couturier says approvingly. "I'd hang it over a silk-covered chaise longue for a very glamorous look." Coumans loves the chandelier's "chiseled form and sculptural shape" but would remove the shades to show it off better. "It's meant to be the star of the room." Height: 31.5"; diameter: 28"; material: handblown Murano glass with gold-dust finish and silk-taffeta shades (available in other colors, finishes, and sizes); delivery: immediate; price: \$3,375

**9 WROUGHT IRON CHANDELIER FROM RESTORATION HARDWARE**

"The silhouette is beautiful and the price is amazing," says Coumans. "And I'd add my own decorations—crystals, dried flowers, ribbons—to the base." Couturier, for his part, would hang it in a traditional kitchen setting and de-electrify it. "Candlelight would look fantastic with the blackened finish," he says. Height: 31"; diameter: 31"; material: wrought-iron frame with black matte finish; delivery: 1-2 weeks; price: \$379

**10 STARBURST CHANDELIER BY LIGHTING BY GREGORY**

Couturier fell for this fixture's 1960s dawn-of-the-space-age aesthetic. "Don't fight the Star Trek quality," he advises. "Use it in a teenager's bedroom or another place you need wit and whimsy." Coumans, with the caveat that it might cast too strong a light on a dining table, says that this piece is "just the thing to break up a too-serious atmosphere." Height: 21"; diameter: 30"; material: chrome-plated steel frame (available in other sizes); delivery: 2 weeks; price: \$468

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**1 SUPERORDINATE ANTLER CHANDELIER BY JASON MILLER FROM SUBLIME**

"It has a marvelous sense of humor," raves Couturier, who says he'd hang this chandelier in an entrance hall or a more casual setting like a kitchen or bathroom. Coumans agrees. "It's very whimsical, an art piece really," she says, "that would work in both traditional and modern rooms." Height: 24"; diameter: 28"; material: cast ceramic with white gloss finish (available in a natural finish and a smaller size); delivery: 6-8 weeks; price: \$1,650

**2 DANIELI CHANDELIER BY NIERMANN WEEKS**

The chandelier's gleaming crystals set in a classic style, says Coumans, "instantly put you in a party mood. I'd use it anywhere to create a joyful atmosphere." Couturier, who says it's "very 1920s Bagués," would place it in an elegant living room or an entertaining space with large proportions "where it would give off a shimmering light." Height: 38"; diameter: 39"; material: metal finished in Venetian silver leaf with glass beading (available in other finishes and custom sizes); delivery: 3 weeks; price: \$6,000

**3 BRYANT CHANDELIER BY THOMAS O'BRIEN FOR VISUAL COMFORT**

Both designers give plaudits to this chandelier, noting its delicate, streamlined appeal and affordable price. Coumans likes its "beautiful, compact shape and silver finish," while Couturier points to its "stylish approach." It's unobtrusive yet striking, he says, "though it's best suited to a small-scale living or dining room." Height: 48"; diameter: 25.5"; material: brass with polished-silver finish and paper shades (available in other finishes and a larger size); delivery: 4-6 weeks; price: \$325

**4 CASPER CHANDELIER FROM LAMPWORKS**

"It's perfect," says Couturier, who adds that he especially likes the chandelier's serpentine branches. "I'd hang one in a bedroom or a bathroom with high ceilings, or even an outdoor space like a terrace or a gazebo." Coumans praises the ornate "soap bubble" design: "It's like a traditional heavy Flemish chandelier that's been given a modern, weightless interpretation." Height: 27"; diameter: 27"; material: handblown crystal (available in other sizes and colors); delivery: immediate; price: \$3,495

**5 THE 3 ARM CEILING LAMP BY SERGE MOUILLE FROM GUÉRIDON**

Coumans says she envisions this chandelier in a modern setting with French '50s furniture: "It's like a piece of sculpture on the ceiling." Couturier admires the fixture's superb design. "It has its own personality," he notes. "It's almost animated. I'd use it in a library or home office." Height: 18"; length of arms: 30", 35", 49"; material: lacquered aluminum with black finish and brass hardware (available in a white finish and a larger size); delivery: 12-15 weeks; price: \$5,400