



DESIGNING WAYS

for people in the world of design

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GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

Bernie de Le Cuona's Guide to Coffee Tables

Coffee tables are, for me, the one area of a home that is sadly underrated. They are integral in creating and defining living spaces yet they tend to receive very little attention. I would suggest that this is the first item to be considered when decorating as they can set the tone for an entire scheme and layout.

Practicality is paramount; they should be large enough so that each person sitting around it can easily set down a drink without great effort. More generously sized coffee tables also allow you to create a stylish atmosphere by stacking books and arranging flowers and candles on them. My own coffee table is enormous (nearly two metres long) which is terrific as it holds everything whilst still allowing us to use it for casual dining and working at our laptops. Below are a few of my favourite picks – from edgy and interesting to clean and classic.



Bernie de Le Cuona

1stdibs.com – 1900 Original French industrial railroad cart – A true vintage piece, this cart provides an eclectic alternative to the standard coffee table. It's a great choice for anyone looking to compliment their collection of old books or add some character to new sofas. The aged wood and wheels make for both a useful table and conversation piece.

France circa 1900. Height (with handle): 37.5 inches (without handle) height: 19.5 inches, depth: 36 inches, width/length: 5 foot 9.5 inches, \$2980.



The Ikea PS Burse – Ikea is a great choice for anyone working on a budget as many of their tables are understated, basic pieces that allow you to focus on styling with interesting accessories. This table caters for a smaller room at 150 x 46cm. It is available in many colours and is £129.00 – a classic staple with a clean finish. www.ikea.com



Promemoria *San Moritz* table is designed to resemble an old ski sled, this option allows for an interesting take on the shape and style of the traditional coffee table. Perfect for any cosy chalet or as an alternative look for a rustic sitting room, this table is sure to be a conversation piece just as much as a functional addition to a room. The lower height also gives the vintage design a modern contrast. www.promemoria.com



Oka's *Tribal* table has a delightfully rustic appearance and lends itself to either a contemporary interior or country house. The trestle legs allow you to change the top to any size or style thus being extremely versatile. It measures 180 x 110cm and costs £599. www.okadirect.com



Andrew Martin's *Bagatelle* is a smart, sophisticated addition to a seating area. If you do decide on a smaller table the *Bagatelle's* compact size (50x70 cm) allows you to move it with ease, re-defining your seating area to cater to your needs. To compensate for the smaller surface the drawers in this table adds to its functionality. www.andrewmartin.co.uk

About Bernie de Le Cuona

Bernie de Le Cuona founded what is now the world's largest own brand linen collection in her kitchen in 1992 and, to date, has extended the name to include both paisley and eclectic lines as well as accessories and furniture collection.

Hailing originally from South Africa, Bernie's design pairs understated English elegance with sub-Saharan accents. Famous for throwing out the rule book in tactile merchandising, she is known for putting materials such as raw linens next to luxurious textures like cashmere and velvets to create a juxtaposition that highlights the strengths of both fabrics. Her attention to detail has resulted in her working with English Heritage as well as The Victoria and Albert Museum displaying her paisleys; and her commitment to luxury textiles has led to creative partnerships with both Ralph Lauren and Calvin Klein.

de Le Cuona's head offices are based in Windsor, England with flagship showrooms in London, New York and Moscow and distributors all over Europe, Australia, South Africa and the United States. www.delecuona.co.uk

de le Cuona product is available in South Africa through Mavromac