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## Lounging Around

For more than 200 years—ever since the Parisian hostess Madame Recamier bestowed upon it the kiss of chic—the chaise longue has symbolized luxury and indulgence. It is the most decadent and private of seats, and the name alone seems to have the power to make anyone in its embrace lean back and get comfortable. A sofa, by contrast, with its tacit reminder to sit up straight, share, and keep your feet off the furniture, never quite lets you relax. But a good chaise longue encompasses more than cushy comfort. New York-based designer Monique Gibson, whose funky and offbeat style appeals to a clutch of young socialites, points out that where a chaise will be placed and how it will be used are crucial considerations. If it's meant for extra seating in a living room, choose one with firm upholstery, good seat height, and a single arm or none at all. If it's destined for a more private space—such as the bedroom or a dressing area—feel free to indulge your fantasies, since you'll be the only one using it. Designer and architect Campion Platt, who is known for his modern, masculine interiors, adds that a chaise for a library should be low and comfortable enough for an extended session with a book—or a nap. In that case, consider one with an adjustable back or a headrest. But however a chaise is to be used, both designers agree, its aesthetic appeal needs to be equal to its siren call to kick back and enjoy. ▶



Clockwise from top: Platt adjusts the Reef chaise by Piero Lissoni for Cassina; the elegantly curved Ravello Recamier by Schumacher; Gibson tests the Massieur chaise by Amy Howard.