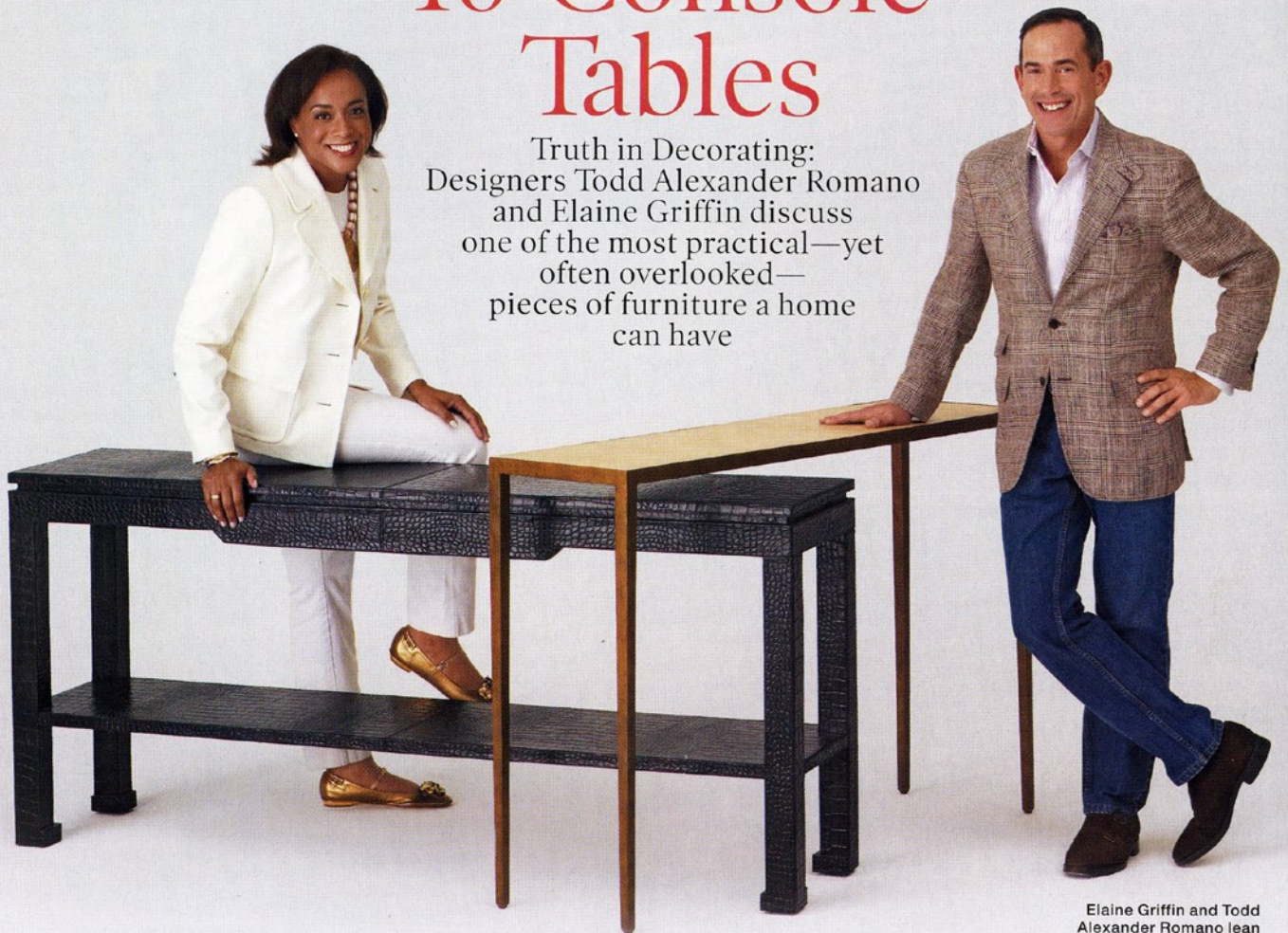


elle decor's guide to...

# The Top 10 Console Tables

Truth in Decorating:  
Designers Todd Alexander Romano  
and Elaine Griffin discuss  
one of the most practical—yet  
often overlooked—  
pieces of furniture a home  
can have



Elaine Griffin and Todd Alexander Romano lean on console tables by Jonathan Adler and Julian Chichester, respectively. See Resources.

Faced with a tight floor plan yet still in need of a tabletop to hold books, a lamp, or a collection of objets d'art? "Any area with limited space is the perfect opportunity for a console," says Elaine Griffin, decorator and author of *Design Rules: The Insider's Guide to Becoming Your Own Decorator* (Gotham Books, 2009). Long and narrow, this classic piece often features just a surface for an elegant display, although some sport convenient shelves or drawers.

Decorator and showroom owner Todd Alexander Romano calls consoles one of the ultimate user-friendly furnishings. You can press them into service as sideboards in the dining room, he says, deploy one to break up a barren stretch of corridor, or use them to stow accessories in a bath or walk-in closet. And consoles are, of course, ideal for entrance halls. "They give you someplace to set keys, the mail, or your BlackBerry as you enter the house," Romano observes. "They can be where you begin and end the day." ▷