

# HUDSON MOD

SEPTEMBER 2013

LIFE WELL LIVED

EXCLUSIVE

## IVANKA

Manhattan's stylish mogul reigns over her booming business empire. Has power ever looked this good?

Terron Schaefer  
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CAMPION PLATT:  
THE TOM FORD OF  
INTERIOR DESIGN

# Fashion!

*The Oscars WOW! Gowns*  
*Fern Mallis' Favorite Week*  
*Robert Graham's Magic*









**RAMPTON'S CLASSIC**  
© Carroll Platt  
Designed home on  
Madison Ave in  
the Hamptons.

# CAMPION PLATT MANHATTAN'S DESIGN ROCK STAR

BY WILLIAM WEATHERSBY

**C**arroll Platt is one of the out-of-Hollywood's version of what a Manhattan interior designer should be. Detail-orienting, an affable host who has the poise to put across his design ideas with ease. Nice guy that he is, still, his work speaks for itself. Carroll Platt is a rock star.

Obviously a contemporary modernist, Platt can integrate farm and forest in everything from an old sea captain's house to a jewel-box Manhattan penthouse to a Florida-Whistler-inspired bungalow. "Every space can tell a story," he says. And finding a story to tie your rooms together becomes especially important. "When you consider that 80 percent of home furnishings are purchased not by designers, but by people shopping for their own dwellings." The secret, Platt says, is a unifying design to tie the elements together.

"SPONGE ROLL"





The Ivy League-educated (Columbia University) architect spent his youth in Cambridge, outside of Boston. One of the many things that sets Platt apart from his competitors is the fact that he is both architect and interior designer for top-shelf clients such as late-night television host Conan O'Brien and author Jay McInerney.

"Triangulating" his time between homes in SoHo (with a main Manhattan office), Palm Beach and the Hamptons, Platt says he stays young chasing after his three youngest children (an older son is out of

the nest) with his wife, Tatiana, an Internet entrepreneur. To survive the busy schedule between design projects and home, he has recently adopted a vegan diet and wouldn't be without his UP bracelet by Jawbone, a favorite new gadget that tracks his sleep, movement and calories.

Platt considers travel the ultimate luxury, but when it comes to interiors, "luxury is about both materiality and context," he says. "Context might mean creating clear, open spaces within the confines of a Manhattan residence, or selecting opulent finishes—such as leather, resin or marble—to accentuate spatial forms." Platt's signatures are refined custom furnishings, sleek wood and metal surfaces, tactile fabrics and the interplay of sculptural pieces. Platt's singular notion of luxury often incorporates fine craftsmanship and contemporary styling as well as eco-sensitive design. It works.

All in all, Champion Platt's design cred is pure platinum. But we wanted to know more. So we asked.

#### **Define luxury.**

Ah, time with my beautiful wife and kids, without a phone—free time in general.

#### **Who has inspired your own creative work?**

Gio Ponti, Frank Lloyd Wright, Carlo Molino, Louise Bourgeois.

#### **What's your interior design pet peeve?**

My interior design pet peeve is definitely nonrigorous eclecticism or designs thrown together in the name of being eclectic.



**GOTHAM GETAWAYS**  
(from top) Platt's 1924 British Colonial Revival house, Palm Beach, FL; entryway and dining room of historic Hudson Valley home near West Point, NY.





**What's overrated in design?**

Bamboo; while a sustainable material, it costs a lot of energy to harvest.

**What's something you've learned and appreciated?**

I appreciate the artisans who pursue excellence to the smallest details because it's the right thing to do.

**What's your favorite getaway?**

Morocco—I've been to many places there, from the surf waves of Essaouira to the dunes in Merzouga.

**Where haven't you been that you'd like to visit?**

Bhutan.

**What's your hidden talent?**

Haircutting is my hidden talent—22 years now.

**Do you have a favorite interior design space?**

For interiors, it's Hollyhock House, in LA, by Frank Lloyd Wright. This is a house where you can sense the volume of every room. It's worth a visit.

**What career would you have liked to pursue?**

I would've loved to be an atomic physicist, but since I'm not that smart, I may have been an astronomer.

**What's a design challenge you'd like to tackle?**

I'd love to tackle a space-station design that looks magazine ready, more human, not just ergonomic.

**Let's talk color.**

My favorite interior design color is lavender, and my least favorite is green. Both are difficult to work with.

**Do you have a material you're fond of working with?**

I love elm and have specified it for a new project.


**What's the last book you read?**

*Sun in a Bottle: The Strange History of Fusion and the Science of Wishful Thinking*, by Charles Serfe, is the last book I read.

**What's your favorite hotel?**

My favorite hotel is Amankila Hotel in Eastern Bali, Indonesia.

**What are design trends to be on the lookout for?**

Smaller homes, more tech for interactive environments, greater connection to the exterior, outdoor "rooms." 



**HIS KIND OF TOWN**  
(from top) Scenes from Manhattan: Platt's SoHo left; Zen living room, Carnegie Hill; Nested wood boxes, Greenwich Village.