

Campion Platt

The architect comes East both to work and play

by Cindi Cook | photography by Daniel Sheriff

He spent his formative years playing hockey back home in Cambridge, Massachusetts and at school abroad. Drafted by the University of Michigan, he studied architecture while he skated the ice. He then took his talent to New York City where a successful career in architecture followed. Campion Platt is now on Architectural Digest's "AD100" list as one of the top in his field in the world.

What kinds of projects have you done in the Hamptons?

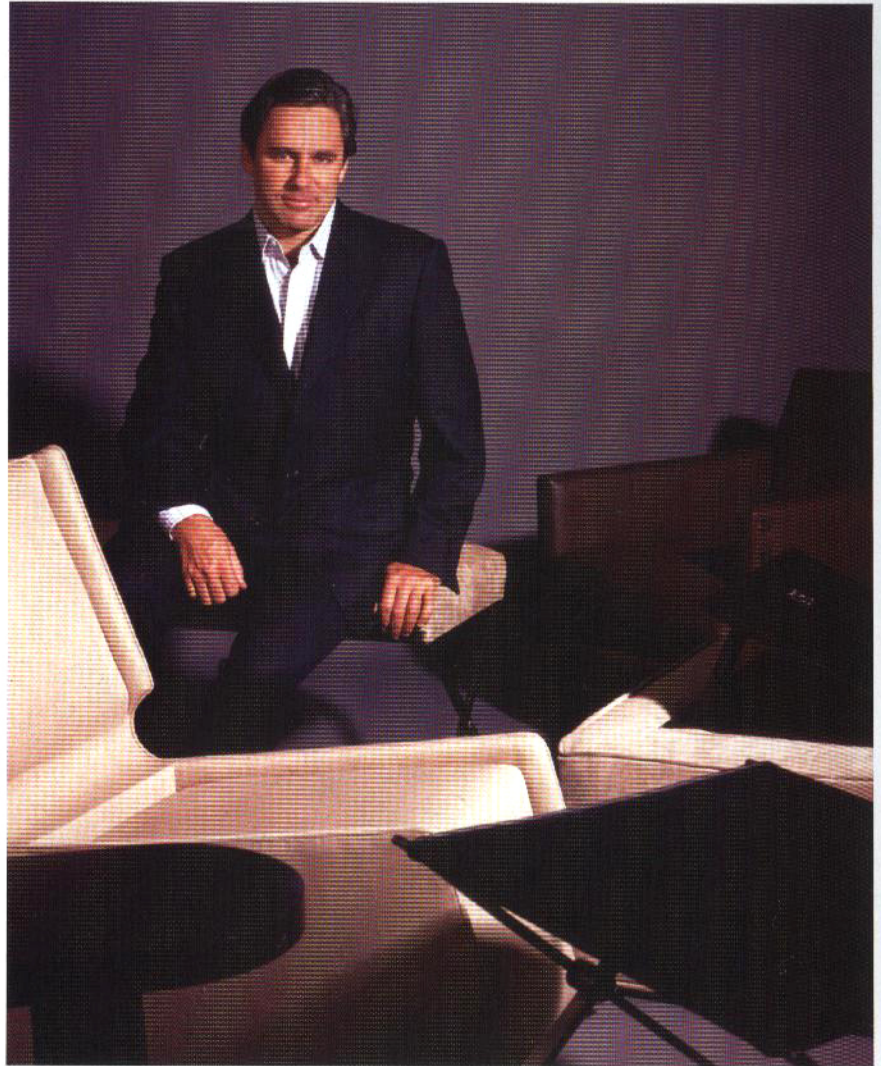
We did a total renovation on an Old Tutor in Southampton, put on an addition and built a huge outdoor room that connected three interior rooms. We put in a glass-roofed trellis so the homeowners could sit outside even when it rains.

How would you define your style?

I'm known for doing intense interiors that are highly detailed. I do a tremendous amount for our projects. My style is modern and tactile. I guess you could say it's contextual modernism.

And you did an old captain's house in Sag Harbor?

That project took about a year and a half and was very challenging. We first thought about who had lived there—the sailor who returned home with items he collected from his trips around the world—to put ourselves in the right frame of mind. We then tried to embellish the handcrafted details already there, tore off the siding, lifted it up two feet so there was a better view over the bay—did everything but build a brand new house. The client thought there was a ghost in the



house—a friendly ghost though.

You have worked on restaurants out here too, haven't you?

We did the old Duke's in East Hampton, which is Peconic East now. We worked with Ed Barnes Architecture on that, and also worked on the Shinnecock Indian Museum.

Did you always want to be an architect?

I was going to the Swiss American

School in Zurich, and was pretty self-reflective when I was a teenager. I was constantly sketching and drawing and building models, and was also good at math and science. Architecture was a good fit because it's a well-rounded occupation, where you have to learn about pretty much everything.

How long have you been in practice?

For twenty years, and have had my own firm since 1993.

With whom else have you worked?

I apprenticed with Architectonica. Everyone has to apprentice for three years in order to get their degree. After that I went on my own. My projects have included hotel and retail environments, as well as private residences and corporate projects.

You've also developed furniture collections.

We ended up creating them because we were already making a lot for clients who asked. I have two collections, the Campion Collection and the Crystalline Collection, and have had fun naming the pieces—like the Stud Chair, Note to Self (a writing desk), and the Bottoms Up Bar.

The clients who call on you have been pretty notable.

I've done projects for Meg Ryan, Al Pacino, Russell Simmons, Conan O'Brien, Anne Hearst, Roger Waters' house in Southampton, and Jay McInerney.



(above) A private residence in Manhattan (below) Platt's custom-design for Meg Ryan's New York kitchen

Where do you spend your time when you're out here?

Usually Amagansett, or Southampton—quite a difference in distance when it's already a two-hour drive from New York. We like

Sagaponack best, though. Our ritual is to come out Thursday night and go back in Monday morning.

That "we" is you and your new wife?

Yes, Tatiana Gau. We were married at Mar-a-Lago in October. It was an all-weekend affair, with 125 people who came in from every part of the globe.

Do you come out only on weekends?

Mostly, but we do like to come out year-round. We love the Hamptons in the off season.

Is there a beach you favor?

We go to Dune Beach. It's magical.

Any projects on the horizon that you care to mention?

Just my own place, which I would love to build in Sagaponack.

What do you do for fun when you are in the Hamptons?

I love to go water skiing out by Robin's Island, and play tennis, or take long walks on the beach. We also like buy a lot of fresh food from the farmstands and cook for our friends. ♦

