

Connecticut COTTAGES & GARDENS

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Independent Style

Fourth of July Fête ★ Pastel Palette
Cottage Chic ★ Garden Rooms



MEET THE ARCHITECT

Jeff Kaufman

by Alexa Stevenson



Rock and Roll | The Sachem Head residence in Guilford (LEFT), designed by Jeff Kaufman, is elevated so that high tide flows under the house. **The Designer** | Kaufman (BELOW LEFT) is the owner of JMK Architects in Westport. **New Classic** | A marble and granite floor and a second staircase, which balances an existing one, were added to the foyer (BELOW RIGHT) of an old Cape for timeless and classic style. **Personal Flair** | A wooden sculpture, Mrs. Tulip (BOTTOM), stands in Kaufman's living room and reflects his eclectic style and penchant for folk art. See Resources.



Where do you live in Connecticut? Woodbridge. **What do you love about Connecticut?** The architecture, landscape and proximity to the coast and family. **What's your favorite place in Connecticut?** The Hillstead Museum in Farmington and the British Art Center in New Haven. **Describe your home:** An 1860 farmhouse with clean and simple lines and a contemporary extension that matches the austerity and sparse details of 19th-century farmsteads. **Name a source of inspiration:** Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. **Who has had a profound impact on your work?** Sir Edwin Lutyens, Sir John Soane and Louis Kahn. **What's your guilty design pleasure?** Good design doesn't have guilt. **What's your design philosophy?** Each client is different, as is every design. History and historic structures have a large influence on my design. I strive to create timeless architecture that includes multiple architectural vocabularies. **I strongly believe:** The best design is an education for my clients. **What's your favorite element of a project?** The most creative part—schematic design. **What are your favorite materials?** Wood and stone. **I always cringe when I see:** Poor detailing. **What is your greatest extravagance?** My two girls. **What was your greatest bargain?** Eight original signed Thonet chairs for \$425. **Have you designed any products?** All types of furniture and a playhouse for children. **What item of furniture in your house would you never sell?** A double pedestal dining table—a family heirloom—made by Nathan Margolis of Connecticut in 1939. It represents family and holidays. **Describe your perfect day?** Coffee and newspaper in the courtyard, doing design work in the day without too many phone calls, dinner with my family, a glass of cabernet and a longer-than-ten-minute conversation with my wife. **Do you have a favorite building or structure?** La Rotunda in Vicenza, Italy, by Andrea Palladio. **What is something you can never have too much of?** Time. **What would you do for work if you weren't an architect?** Veterinarian. **Describe your clients:** The best: interesting, interested in the learning process of the project and appreciative of the self investment. **Name a dream client:** Can one exist? See Resources.



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