



GEORGE DUMITRU

Studio Dumitru Architects

George Dumitru appreciates fine wine. French Bordeaux, Italian Super Tuscans, California Cabs — wines with strong character; big wines that tell a story; extraordinary wines that warm your heart, put a sparkle in your eye, and make you want to shove a glass in someone's hand and insist that they try it. The houses that the architect designs are a lot like those wines: They have depth and spirit; they speak to those who take the time to really look at them.

And like a boutique winemaker, the small firm of Studio Dumitru Architects considers quality the most important aspect of creation. Quality is the thing above all else that matters in his work. "If we do something, we make it exquisite," George says, "rather than settle for something ordinary or do it just for the sake of doing something." The essence of his work is the quality and the details, the character and the personality of the results of the act of creating something new.

With no preference for traditional or modern design, the 20-year architectural veteran, emphasizes purity of style when he designs for a client. If his client likes Georgian houses, he wants to give that client the most beautiful Georgian home he can. If the client likes modern homes, he will give him the most spectacular modern home possible.



ABOVE: Private Residence, Long Island Shore, Rye, New York – Waterfront Facade.
Photograph by Durston Saylor

LEFT: Private Residence, Long Island Shore, Rye, New York – Driveway Facade.
Photograph by Durston Saylor



George knows that architecture is a very personal experience. What one person loves another might despise, so he sees his role as giving clients a place they can call home, whatever home might mean for them. “You know a house is beautiful when it talks to you,” he says. “Each person’s reaction to beauty is different, and that’s what makes a thing beautiful.” George’s clients are worldly, affluent people of discriminating tastes who appreciate and can afford quality at every turn.

The architect’s high standards are rooted in his European heritage. George was born in Romania and studied les beaux arts — painting, drawing, and sculpture. With a propensity for building things and arranging objects in a pleasing way, he fell in love with architecture before

moving to the United States in the 1980s. Growing up with the historical references and traditions of Europe, spending time in important spaces made a big impression on the architect as a young man. Today, he’s conceiving substantive, meaningful spaces of his own.

ABOVE: Private Residence, Riverside, Connecticut – Back Yard.
Photograph by Studio Dumitru

FACING PAGE TOP: Private Residence, Long Island Shore, Rye, New York – Living Room view.
Photograph by Durston Saylor

FACING PAGE BOTTOM: Private Residence, Stamford, Connecticut–Kitchen Family Room.
Photograph by Studio Dumitru



more about george... Q&A

What does he like most about being an architect?

Looking on a finished project, thinking back to the time before its conception is his most satisfying moment.

When he’s not working, where can you find the architect?

At his home in Weston, Connecticut, with his family and his friends.

What color best represents him?

Because the architect is honest to a fault, white is the color that he’s most like. “There are two colors that go with anything: black and white,” George says. “They are the basics of life. That’s where we start. Anything in between is debatable. Black we associate with absolute darkness; white with lightness and cleanliness. I think that the color white is very unforgiving. It’s an honest color, and it’s beautiful in its honesty and integrity.”

If he could eliminate one thing from the world of architecture, what would it be?

George doesn’t like spec houses. “A house without a specific client is a house without a soul,” the architect says.

What is the most impressive home he’s ever seen?

Peles Castle is considered by many, including George, to be one of the most beautiful castles in all of Europe. Located in at the foothills of the Bucegi Mountains, the king’s residence was built under the order of the Viennese architect Wilhem Doderer. The only thing that mattered was quality — of details, materials, and design.

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