# Robin Kencel

*ELLSWORTH FORD ASSOCIATES* **The Studio, 190 North St., Greenwich, CT 203-249-2943; ellsworth-ford.com**

**WHAT INSPIRES YOU?** Things that are beautiful, well conceived, balanced and of high integrity .

**DESCRIBE YOUR IDEAL CLIENT.** My ideal client is willing to look past tradition and the expected, is open to styles and periods beyond what he or she has known, has personal integrity and respects the design process.

**WHAT'S THE MOST HANDY DESIGN TRICK YOU LEAN ON IN A PINCH?** Turning to my rolodex with twenty five years of incredible colleagues and resources. I had a client this month that wanted antique demitasse spoons for holiday entertaining and I was able to locate a rare set of Tiffany vine pattern spoons within three days.

**WHAT COLORS DO YOU LOVE NOW?** It's about evoking a feeling and creating a mood. Color has the ability to tell a story and sets a stage. I have a wide range of color loves, but it's how they are used together and in what intensity that is most important to me.

**DO YOU HAVE A DESIGN ICON?** Albert Hadley, John Dickinson, Elsie de Wolfe, Frances Elkins and Billy Baldwin. All of their design philiosophies are based in classical principals, but they each took risks that were enormously successful in moving design forward. One of my most cherished possessions is a book by Albert Hadley with a personal inscription.

**WHAT THREE PIECES SHOULD EVERY HOME HAVE?** A good mirror, a comfortable sofa or chair, and a decorative accessory that makes you smile every single time you look at it.

LEFT: *The color palette for this 1929 stone manor house interior was taken from an antique Agra rug used in the living room and Gracie wallpaper, custom colored to complement the rug.* RIGHT: *Robin Kencel envisioned this design studio from a carriage house. By removing the ceiling of two horse stalls and raising the roof ties on the second floor, a soaring ceiling in antique wood with suspended beam ties could be fashioned. Danish chairs from 1960s were restored and covered in a linen from Jerry Pair.*

ANDREW FRENCH (PORTRAIT); CHI CHI UBINA (ROOMS)