



CAPRINI & PELLERIN

The beautiful projects of the French architects Caprini & Pellerin bring tradition in harmony with contemporary design. From a deep understanding of and feeling for the context, the architects always create carefully composed luxury with refined details.

The architectural studio is based in Cannes and is formed by friends Kevin Caprini and Jerry Pellerin. The latter graduated from the Ecole Spéciale d'Architecture in Paris. The architect is enormously passionate and throws himself completely into every project. With a strong sense of luxury in terms of decoration, contemporary art, design, etc., he always achieves pure finesse. Next to him is Kevin who studied at the Ecole Supérieure de Paris Val de Seine et Marseille Luminy. Equally passionate, he is pragmatic and directs creative energies in the right direction. Both architects have already gained a lot of valuable experience in other recognised architectural firms such as Moatti-Rivière, Wilmotte & Associates and Valode and Pistre. As long-time friends, they rapidly noticed how their differences and complementarities could amount to a successful collaboration and that is exactly what they did. Caprini & Pellerin was established in 2008 and their bond and collaboration have only grown stronger over the past twelve years. Today, the two men are supported by a multidisciplinary team of architects, interior designers and project managers. Moreover, they work together with extremely talented craftsmen and (landscape) artists.

Caprini & Pellerin Architects has a distinctive approach and style with which they realise all their projects. For example, they value ancestral traditions and crafts, but they are also interested in contemporary approaches and technologies. Each project starts with a rich and deep understanding of the feeling and the place. From there, they create carefully composed luxury tailored to the context. The architects are only too happy to take on challenges during their projects. They usually focus on the reinterpretation of tradition in a contemporary way. They never use the same details or designs twice and each project is seen as an opportunity to reinvent themselves. Caprini & Pellerin's projects are characterised by large, open spaces, lots of light, a summery atmosphere and a lot of white.

We spoke with founders Kevin Caprini and Jerry Pellerin about their collaboration and beautiful projects.



DO BOTH OF YOU HAVE THE SAME DESIGN STYLE? HOW DO YOU COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER IN THE DESIGN PROCESS?

Jerry Pellerin (JP): 'We are bound by the same passion for architecture. Our aesthetic and design tastes are similar and the values that we want to instil into our agency are the same. Of course, working as a tandem we don't always agree... We will have different views and won't approach the projects the same way. It is precisely our divergences that enable us to find THE idea or solution that brings everything together. I am more

emotional and consumed whereas Kevin is pragmatic and focused, we have learnt that despite our differences, we are very complementary.'

Kevin Caprini (KC): 'We have similar visions and we nourish each other's ideas. I couldn't imagine doing this with anyone else, our collaboration is natural and has been since childhood. Our ties are strong, and we know that much like family nothing will break our partnership. I am older than Jerry, and when I was studying architecture, Jerry wouldn't hesitate to come and help me out with my

coursework through the early hours of the morning. Later when I was working and Jerry was passing his finals, I was there to advise. One could say that our respective degrees are a collaboration!'

CAN YOU TELL ME A BIT MORE ABOUT YOUR DESIGN APPROACH?

JP: 'We decide who takes the lead on the project from the start, however we always run our ideas by each other to confirm or confront them. Finding the balance between productivity and allowing a project to mature is not always easy. We are both very de-

manding and sometimes we do not count the time we spend on a project.'

KC: 'We enrich one another's ideas. We also have an international team of over twenty people that contributes to each project with their feedback and skillsets.'

HOW IS IT TO WORK TOGETHER WITH A LIFELONG FRIEND? DOES IT ALSO COME WITH CHALLENGES?

JP: 'It is a relationship built on mutual respect and admiration, and precisely because we have always been friends, we are always

thriving to do our best – the stakes are higher, there is more to prove. We have very different characters that bring out the best in each other. Our motivation lies in creating beautiful things, working within the rules of the art whilst managing projects professionally.’

KC: ‘For me, it makes things a lot easier, you can speak candidly about an idea or a project with someone you are comfortable with and that you trust. We get on extremely well in life so we (usually) get on well at work! We both have strong characters and strong views and thus it can sometimes be challenging to settle on just the one central idea.’

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE STYLE OF CAPRINI & PELLERIN?

JP: ‘We do not have a particular style; we can work on renovating a traditional provençal bastide just as we are able to create a bold contemporary new build. For example, we are currently developing a futuristic ecological resort in the Arabian desert and are designing a small shoe boutique in Vienna. Our strength lies in our adaptability. Each project is an opportunity for us to reinvent ourselves with the same drive for perfect integration and meticulous attention to detail. We like the views and perspectives that can be created with architecture, mastering natural light and the interplay of volumes. We articulate our work around these great principals all while using characterful materials that bring soul to the spaces we create. The spaces we design must be pleasant to live in. In a sense, our style is more a lifestyle!’

KC: ‘Our style is timeless defined by a signature approach. We use noble materials such as wood, stone, metal that are never old fashioned. For me the “devil is in the details”, everything must be executed perfectly, the finishings need to be outstanding. I am obsessed with workmanship. My team therefore calls me “the eye”.’

HOW DO YOU COMBINE THE TRADITIONAL AND THE CONTEMPORARY IN YOUR PROJECTS?

JP: ‘It is a balance to find. For example, on a more contemporary project we will use authentic “patinated” materials to add character – the soul must be able to land on warm, “imperfect” materials. To create interesting contrast on a more traditional project we will



punctuate the design with contemporary elements here and there.’

KC: ‘We use ancient techniques and rework them in a modern manner. We carry out extensive research on ancient materials and know-how. This is one of our strengths and why we work with a close-knit team of artisans that are all experts in their own respective fields.’

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER THE CONTEXT FOR A PROJECT? AND HOW DO YOU MANAGE THIS?

JP: ‘The context is like the introduction of a novel; without this introduction we lose sense of what follows. We do a lot of research on each environment. We go big and this enables us to really set the design framework. We draw our creativity from the constraints of each project. Our work is

rooted in a rich understanding of sense and place; we create carefully curated answers tailored to each context.’

WHAT DO YOU FIND THE MOST CHALLENGING AS AN ARCHITECT AND DESIGNER?

JP: ‘What we find most challenging is to create projects that make sense and that are ageless. We endeavour to build projects that

will never be destroyed! This gives us an additional commitment to the quality of the work carried out. That is why we surround ourselves with competent craftsmen with whom we have been working for almost ten years.’

KC: ‘The local urbanism laws and regulation are often a big constraint, the response delays of certain town halls are also difficult

to manage. On a design level I find drawing staircases the most challenging. To create a staircase that combines aesthetics and function isn’t easy.’

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON YOU’VE LEARNED IN THIS PROFESSION?

JP: ‘Humility. Architecture is a very demanding job with a lot of different parties

to please. Architecture is also a social act; the legacy of a building is important.'

KC: 'That you don't get anywhere on your own. We are where we are today, thanks to our amazing team. Most of whom have been with us since the beginning. It is this mutually enriching exchange that allow us to grow. Our collaborators are constantly bringing new things to the table that pushes us to experiment and reach new heights.'

WHAT DO YOU LOVE THE MOST, INTERIOR DESIGN OR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND WHY?

JP: 'Architecture and interior design are integral in our design philosophy. With architecture you grasp a project from a global perspective (hence the importance of context). The architect takes a stand, a strong ethic. Interior design works within the frame set by the architecture, where the focus is on the small-scale, creating complementarities and well-being. I personally started with an interior design education and finished with architecture. My father is an architect and my mother an interior designer. They are intrinsic to me. At Caprini & Pellerin we like to oversee the design process in its entirety. We cover everything from architecture, interior design to decoration, art buying as well as landscaping. All our kitchens, bathrooms and storage are made-to-measure and we are increasingly designing our own fur-



niture and lighting to ensure we get exactly what we want. Franck Lloyd Wright is the perfect example of an architect that imagines his projects from A to Z. He is one of our main inspirations.'

KC: 'The responsibilities and implications are not the same. Architecture marks the territory for a long period of time. Personally, I am more sensitive to architecture because of the harmonies a building can create with its environment. My background is more in architecture, but I am also involved in the interior design process and I love designing furniture. If I weren't an architect, I would be a designer, maybe I can be both?! We are very keen to develop a Caprini & Pellerin furniture line.'

Imagicasa cannot wait for more impressive projects by this top duo in which context, tradition, craftsmanship and a contemporary lifestyle are central. And we are also looking forward to their future furniture line. ✿

