

Lewis and Sandra Bakes

Dear Dinyar,

It is with great pleasure and high regard that I write this letter regarding our home and the wonderful renovation that you and Wadia Associates completed for us.

Our home is a lovely, turn of the century, neo-classical shingle style attributed to legendary architect Stanford White. The interiors of the physical rooms with its beautiful millwork were in quite good condition at purchase. However, the house was in need of updates in its major systems and needed extensive interior and exterior renovations. The exterior renovations included the replacement of all doors and windows (achieved from the exterior so as to minimally impact the century old interior), roofs, shingle siding, porches, balustrades and stone terraces. The interior work touched virtually every room including redesign and reconfiguration of many rooms including the master suite, guest rooms, kitchen, breakfast room, pantry, etc. It also involved enormous attention to details such as replicating period trims, refurbishing/refinishing many items, installing new systems without tearing down walls and numerous details throughout. The most significant challenge was the creation of an office, suitable for extensive home use, which would be compatible with and enhance the character and integrity of the original house. This was no small challenge as the area converted for this purpose was a columned, semi-circular, stone terrace and the most architecturally significant element of the house exposed to public view.

One of the most important considerations in our selection of architect and builder was sensitivity to the house's age and architectural beauty. The renovation needed to enhance and improve the original (indeed to "undo" some of the past), to modernize without being obvious and be in context with its age. We were confident that Dinyar, with his vast expertise, knowledge and love of classical architecture, would be perfect to undertake the project. Equally important to us were the construction aspects of the job. By handling both the design and the construction, we were confident that whatever challenges might arise with an older home, Wadia Associates would be in the best position to address them. Dinyar's personal involvement was critical to us and he was personally involved in every aspect from design, construction, materials, on-site visits, trouble-shooting, budgets, etc. Dinyar's direct involvement in all phases proved to be invaluable to the success of the project. Dinyar has enormous integrity in his work, is sensitive of the needs of his clients, and is always available to them (literally, day and night). And even though our project is complete, Dinyar has always been incredibly available to provide advice and assistance with any concerns that arrive.

As a result, we just love our home! One of the biggest benefits that Dinyar helped us realize is the importance of the relationship of landscape to architecture and how exponentially the landscape enhances a wonderful home. Overall, the design work was beautiful and beyond our expectations/ imagination and the quality of construction was superb. True value exists in exceeding expectations.

Sincerely,



Sandra L. Bakes