

JOHN HORN

Dear Mr. Wadia:

I write this letter to you firstly as a professional horticulturist, and secondarily as a man that has a great appreciation for fine design, building and craftsmanship.

Upon my first introduction to the Potting Shed and greenhouses of Gitanjali over 5 years ago, I was overwhelmed by the sheer beauty and quality of construction inside and out. The building itself is built like a fortress, but simultaneously instills a warm, inviting feeling. From the massive oak woodwork, posts and beams, to the thick, oversized granite countertops, to the industrial-sized copper sink, to the heavy bluestone flooring, this structure was built for WORK! As you know, it works very hard every day and is the impetus for maintaining an extraordinary property and plant collection.

Aside from that, it amazes me how within just a few hours, the building and greenhouses can be transformed into a fabulous space for parties and events, with enough room to host several dozen people comfortably.

The greenhouses are also not only extraordinarily beautiful, but well-proportioned, efficient and seamlessly functional. Greenhouses in general are nearly always afflicted with certain problems, such as cold spots, hot spots, condensation drips, ventilation problems, air circulation issues, drafts, floor leaks, etc, no matter how well they were designed and built.

I've never had the pleasure of working with greenhouses that are, to all extents and purposes, perfect in every way.

Another impressive aspect of the structure and greenhouses that I've never once before seen attempted is the fact that there is a full, oversized basement below. First-time visitors would never have any idea that it exists without it being brought to their attention, and the logistics of conceptualizing, designing and engineering such a feat is truly astounding!

I also think that it was brilliant to position the furnace room immediately below the greenhouses, as the residual heat helps keep the greenhouse floors warm in the winter and maximizes heating efficiency. Most plants, like people, don't like "cold feet".

In summary, the Potting Shed and greenhouses are truly a one-of-a-kind model of seamless beauty, form and function to which others simply cannot be compared. You should be very proud of them, indeed!

Sincerely,



John Horn
Horticulturist