

As owners of a 1909 Capitol Hill rowhouse which, at the time we purchased it, had never been updated and was in poor condition, we have worked with many contractors and trades people. Without question, Murdoch Builders has been far and away the best of them all--it is really not even close. Here is a partial list of what a client gets when working with MB:

First and foremost, Matt Murdoch, who runs the show, is a master craftsman in every sense of the word. He simply will not accept anything but the highest quality output; and if something comes out below his expectation, which is rare, he does it again without charge (and probably without even asking). He is the only contractor we have worked with whose standards are higher than ours--and we are demanding. Matt specializes in kitchen renovations and crafts hand built custom cabinetry that is absolutely stunning.

The client receives Matt's undivided attention. This is not a company that is a patchwork of multiple crews of varying quality, such that you never know exactly what you are going to get for a job or, for that matter, who will show up on any given day. Matt works his jobs sequentially (as opposed to several simultaneously) so that the client is not competing with others for time; he will be there start to finish. As things change during the renovation process, as they invariably do when you are dealing with a 100-year old house, Matt consults the clients before proceeding. He always laid out the options along with the cost implications so that we could make informed choices.

Matt works time and materials so he and his crew have no incentive to cut corners. That said, jobs do not drag out--while Matt is certainly very careful, which can take time, he is efficient and gets jobs done on a reasonable schedule. At the outset, he provides an accurate assessment of the amount of hours, weeks, or months (and cost) that will be involved in a project. Matt and his small crew renovated our entire main and basement levels in about half the time that it took our neighbors to do just their basement.

Matt has superb design skills. During the design phase, Matt is able to quickly assess shortcomings and impractical design elements present in an architect's plans. He worked closely with us to improve countless design elements--some minor, some not so minor--that either greatly improved the functionality or appearance of the finished project or that reduced costs without compromise.

Another issue that should not be overlooked is that it can be difficult for the average person to find high skilled trades people these days. Matt seems to have established relationships with some of the best in the area; we were very pleased with the plumbers, electricians, etc. that he brought in for our job. He also know

all the right people for highly specialized jobs such as fabricating counters, installing flooring, and the like.

Finally Matt is a joy to work with. He is a smart, interesting person who you actually look forward to having in your house rather than the all too common dread that accompanies home renovation tasks.

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