

It is my pleasure to be able to offer my recommendation for Matt Murdoch.

In 2003 I bought a large condominium in a building built in 1905, and Matt undertook my first big renovation project. Having worked in the field of historic preservation for almost two decades, I thought I knew what to expect. I was wrong.

While I had good instincts for overall design issues, my knowledge of construction methods was sorely lacking. Even so Matt was able to turn those designs into reality. When unforeseeable problems arose -- and there were lots of them -- Matt patiently worked with me to resolve them in a way that respected the design intent but always with an eye on the practical and for innovative solutions. The work was difficult for many reasons beyond his control or mine, but Matt was always able to find his way through even the thorniest problems and deliver a beautiful product.

My only regret about working with Matt is that his schedule is usually filled months in advance. When I decided to renovate the second bathroom, I was unable to get a slot on his schedule until much too far in advance and I ended up having to hire someone else. While I was initially unhappy at not being able to work with him again, it is a testament to Matt's work ethic that he sticks with a job until it's done -- and done well -- rather than rushing from one job to another and filling in here and there.

Find space on Matt's schedule and prepare yourself for a job well done. Five years after the completion of our work together, and the quality remains.

Ralston Cox
Washington DC