

Benjamin Sztajnkrycer

To Whom It May Concern:

I eagerly, urgently recommend Martin Roy Mervel as your architect. He has the right combination of talent, taste, and persistence to help you build the house of your dreams.

My wife and I are the proud owners of a 1935 Spanish revival home. We love it dearly -- its character, its charm, its "soul". In fact we love everything about it...except for the fact that it has only two bedrooms and one bathroom. Not the ideal arrangement for a growing family!

We knew that we needed to add a new bedroom and a new bathroom, but we had no idea where to start. The house added a particular challenge, in that it sits on a long, narrow lot. We are so grateful that we found Martin, because this challenge did not phase him in the slightest. He spent countless hours studying every detail of the house, learning its nature, its "energy". Learning what made it special to us. He even climbed into the attic to get a better understanding of how the roof was constructed. It was like watching a surgeon at work!

Thanks to this meticulous attention to detail, Martin was able to provide a number of amazing options, opening our eyes to the design opportunities contained within our walls. He embraced the nature of our long and skinny house, and he found possibilities for hallways and closets and vestibules in areas that we had never even considered. After a number of design proposals, we settled on our favorite. But Martin was not done yet...he continued to work tirelessly on the project, proposing aesthetic details such as wall sconces and tile layouts.

He was also there every step of the way during the City of Glendale's design review and approval process. The city paid him perhaps the greatest compliment of all, when they approved his blueprints without a single change. Our city planner told us that such a complete success on the first pass is unheard of!

Now, with the end of our project in sight, my wife and I love our "new" three bedroom, two bath home. It still has all the charm that made us fall in love with it in the first place, but it now has all the extra space that it once lacked. And most importantly: *I DEFY ANYONE TO POINT OUT WHERE THE OLD HOUSE ENDED AND THE NEW CONSTRUCTION BEGINS!* The new rooms are so well integrated into the language of the house, it seems like they belonged there all along.

We could not be happier about our project. And we owe it all to Martin.

Regards,



Ben Sztajnkrycer