

December 14, 2009

I put a lot of work into selecting the best contractor for our kitchen and bath remodel. I interviewed 2 to 3 references for each contractor at length and even visited several job sites. We chose Maurice's company over two other construction firms that seemed very reliable, well qualified and came with warm recommendations. It's a decision we never regretted.

What convinced me to choose Levitch Construction was seeing their crew in action on a big project in the Oakland hills. Showing us around, Maurice would point out fine details in the bathroom tile, the way they replicated a stairway post, how he suggested adding a window in one of the bedrooms. He'd admonish his staff to wrap a cloth around a door knob to protect the knob from slamming into the wall. It was obvious from that experience that Levitch Construction puts a lot of emphasis on good workmanship, attention to detail, good project management and that the staff at Levitch Construction tackle projects with lots of energy and skill.

As soon as Maurice took over the remodel, I could literally sleep again. Before I was worrying about every little thing. And there was lots to worry about - new kitchen, bathroom with steam shower and skylight, new electrical upgrade in entire house, new roof, new heating systems, etc. Maurice did such a great job planning everything, managing the subs, masterminding everything that the remodel was actually finished a week or so ahead of schedule.

He put countless hours into meeting with me during the week and with my husband on the weekends to go over issues that came up during construction. Not once did I feel that he was not available or fully "there" when we met or during the many phone calls we had. I still know Maurice's phone number by heart because I dialed it so often... He was always helpful, always patient with me despite my sub-par organizational skills, and kindly kept me on track for buying decisions I had to make.

One might expect a good contractor to perform the work that was specified per plan. Maurice did that but also improved on the construction design by coming up with a clever way to incorporate a major design feature of the house in such a skilled way that even neighbors who knew the layout before the remodel come in and ask; "This was here before, right?"

Throughout the project, including the sensitive discussions about changing the design, Maurice worked and communicated very well and professionally with our architect. She is full of praise for Maurice and his crew.

I may also mention that Maurice has a strong and long relationship with just about all city planning staff and was instrumental in speeding up the approval process by going to the planning department and talking to the right people.

Maurice was great, but so were the construction crew and the folks who work in the office. The Levitch employees were incredibly hard-working and fast! I was actually kind of sad to see the last workman finish up the painting job. Luckily, Jeff Levitch has been wonderful in coming out, 3,4, times to help us with things that I'm quite sure went beyond what most contractors would do, like clearing a rain gutter that was clogged with some nails left over from construction or "fixing" an electrical outlet by pointing out to me that it's connected to a wall switch that I had overseen - and this months after the construction was completed.

Needless to say, I highly recommend the Levitch team and would be glad to talk to any prospective clients about our experiences.

- Barbara Steuart