

1. How was the working relationship at the beginning, middle, and end of the project? Would you hire Polly again? Are there portions of the process that are strong suits of hers?

The entire process with Polly was positive from start to finish. Although I had known Polly socially for many years we had never worked together. When I found this house she came with me the first time I saw it and I think she was surprised (and so was I) at the derelict condition we found. I would hire Polly again in a heartbeat and hope to do so in the not too distant future as I am dying to do an ultra modern house, just need to find the right lot. I believe all of what Polly does is her strong suit but there are two areas that stand out in my opinion. First, she is building "YOUR" house so she listens, advises and creates what it is that you want and need. I have very strong opinions about color, materials, etc. and Polly had no problem working with me, she is not ego driven. The second area is spatial arrangement. I could not have figured out how to make this house work, I just knew what I needed and Polly was able to make the spaces work, she is a master at it. We actually built the house (I am sure she told you that a very small portion of the original house is left, just the front porch and what is now my master bedroom and the bedroom above it) from the first set of plans with one minor change. She was also flexible enough to listen to ideas I had as the construction moved forward, like replacing wood beams and posts with steel ones (she just would advise me that it would cost more).

2. Did you have a separate architect - or use Polly's plans and build services in total?

Polly did it all, start to finish.

3. What was the scope of your project, and the elapsed time from beginning of the design process/permitting to completion?

As I said above, this is essentially a new house. Polly designed the renovation/addition, the guest house and had a big input on laying out the yard, stone walls and fences and some minor changes in the existing barn. I am not sure just how long the entire project took as we did the guest house first so I could move in when I sold my other house and also it was easier to get permits for the new construction than the remodel (historic) so we got it going quickly. There was no lag time at all, the project went smoothly, no long idle periods, Polly runs a tight ship and keeps the subs on schedule. She plans ahead and schedules the subs with plenty of notice and she pays them on time so they have great respect and loyalty for her.

4. How would you describe the communications between yourselves and Polly?

We had open, honest and constant communications. This is another of her strong suits. And when she disagreed with me or I with her we could discuss and respect each other's opinions. An example: I am definitely a primary color person who needs a white background for my environment, this was hard for Polly in the beginning and she was concerned that it would be too stark, but in the end she was able to agree that for me this was the best avenue, I was and am not an earth tone sorta gal!

5. What differentiates Polly Ogden in your opinion compared to other architects/design/build professionals in the area?

Her honesty and value for the price. She stays within budget unless you change something that runs the price up. You get a lot more than you would with a regular general contractor. Polly will take you to the design center to pick out carpet, furniture, light fixtures, etc. And anywhere else you need to go for things like counter top material. She also has, as you know, a very attractive local portfolio and lots of happy clients.

6. What are you happiest about in your new home/renovation?

That it is MINE and it says that even though Polly's signature is all over it in many ways. The next happiest thing is that I have everything I wanted and requested: master on the ground floor, small office, sufficient use of all space. And for me the entry way, to walk into an entry room rather than the kitchen or living room. Originally the entrance to the house was on the other side and in order to make the floor plan work for what I wanted Polly sort of flipped the house, something I never would have figured out.