

I hope you will excuse our boldness in introducing ourselves. Polly Ogden mentioned your project in St. Helena and we felt we must write to you in her regard. We have done four projects with Polly, two in St. Helena and two in Honolulu. We consider her to be an excellent structural and interior designer, contractor, supervisor -- and we have grown to value her as a friend as a result of these projects. When we have our next project, we will retain her in an instant, and hope she will be available.

We lived in the St. Helena area for more than twenty years. We moved back to Hawaii in last August, after almost three decades in California.

When we sold our hillside vineyards in 2008, we decided to move "to town". The city lot we found had a small poorly designed and run-down house and guest house. Improvements presented a number of "challenges", ranging from two giant overgrown redwood trees to a need for new utility services and drainage.

Part of Polly's skill is helping her clients calmly and rationally assess what they really want to do and what they really need to do. She knows what is possible in St. Helena's regulatory and aesthetic environment. She is respected and trusted by those who issue permits and who weigh the design criteria for new construction and major remodels.

Our project needed all these talents. We were also constrained by our budget. She helped us spend wisely and on-budget. She tracked costs every step of the way and weekly provided us with cost summaries, invoices, and projections. The main project involved a demolition of an existing house, the rebuilding of a new home in its place, the major remodel of an existing guesthouse, complete landscaping, fencing, and the addition of a swimming pool.

Friends told us we would likely be unsuccessful in accomplishing this in St. Helena, especially on our budget. Polly was unknown to us but was highly recommended by friends, former clients, and city leaders. We worked together, succeeded in our goals, made our budget, and developed a firm friendship. We have done many other projects, in other places, and know that such an outcome is the exception rather than the rule.

Polly is an excellent designer of space: she knows how to design a structure so it will be safe, sound, and pleasing to the eye. She is equally good at interior spaces. Add to that her ability to work with inspectors, engineers, carpenters, electricians, plumbers and other trades and artisans and your project is well designed, well managed, and well built. Plus, it will be beautiful and comfortable.

We were very pleased with the St. Helena project and her competence. When we moved to Honolulu, we insisted she visit our projects there and to make significant architectural and interior design decisions. Regrettably, neither her time or circumstance allowed her to act as the general contractor, a situation we would

have loved. But, we had an adequate contractor so her design influence and advice assured an excellent outcome.

Anyway, we felt we must tell you of our very satisfactory experience of working with Polly. We have great admiration for her skills as a practical architect, designer, contractor, and business woman.