

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

4700 Keele St. Toronto ON Canada M3J 1P3 November 24, 2018

To whom this may concern,

SalDan Developments is the team you want and need to do your renovation. Here's why:

For a few years, my partner and I had been thinking about doing significant work on our semi-detached home in Roncesvalles. Essentially, we wanted to tear down two strange little rooms jutting off the back of our house and extend the building back by the maximum the city would allow. While we were sure the work needed to be done, the sheer enormity of the task brought to a grinding halt any progress towards our goal. I happened upon *Saldan* when I spotted a sign outside of another property. I took a chance and dialed the number; it was the best hunch I've had in a long time.

Joey met us within days of me making that phone call. He came to our house with an unparalleled blend of both openness and purpose as he listened to our ideas, but also trepidation, about the renovation. Joey immediately put us at ease, not only because he's an extremely nice guy (although that would be enough!), but because of his deep knowledge of and great pride in his craft. Joey came back with a design that was exactly how we had imagined our renovation. Even more, he has *fantastic* taste, which guided us in places of indecision. After a few more meetings regarding timelines and permits, we signed with *Saldan* and moved to Scarborough to live in my mother's basement (oh my!) for the duration of the renovation.

The work began in November of 2017, almost one year ago from the date that I write this letter. Joey and his team undertook the significant job of taking off two little rooms and the back brick wall of our home to extend the building back by approximately 13 feet – on both levels. Of course, I called to inform our insurance of the work and had banked on a hike in fees to account for the unexpected. However, because of *Saldan*'s own hefty insurance policy and certifications, our insurance did not change by a dime. This, to me, is yet more evidence of the stance of responsibility and talent that *Saldan* will bring in working with you and your home, not to mention your financial investment in it.

Throughout the entire project, Joey kept us up-to-date on all progress. Contrary to the stereotype of the absent or "on-again, off-again" renovator, Joey and his team were more present, consistent, and communicative than we could have imagined! Not only did they work every single day throughout a bitter cold winter, Joey regularly sent texts and photo updates. These were a delight to receive and communicated to us his own excitement in the work, as if our house were his own. Even our neighbours conveyed their appreciation for the way Joey's team carried out the work with respect for their own boundaries and concerns, to the extent that this is humanly possible during a significant renovation.

One of the greatest things about *Saldan* is the strong connections they have with all associated technicians, experts, and suppliers needed to do the work; the plumbers, the electricians, the painters, and the flooring and counter folks – I am sure there are more who escape my mind. This integrated network of highly skilled people works like a happy beehive whose goal is to make your dream home come true. And, perhaps most importantly, it means that you will *never* be missing a piece of the puzzle, as it were. Quite the opposite, it means that you'll have regular contact about key aspects of the work and informed advice that supports the overall vision of your project.

In a throw-away culture where it is easier to cut corners, *Saldan*'s commitment to using quality materials, to beautiful visual aesthetics, to orderly work, to careful craftmanship, and to open and clear communication is rare indeed – and should neither be underestimated, nor overlooked. It is precisely this set of commitments that will ensure a beautiful and lasting outcome, communicated with consistency, clarity, and honesty throughout the process.

Whether you are still deciding about undertaking your renovation, whether you aren't sure if you can fathom it, whether you have been "burned" by a contractor in the past, or whether you are totally convinced of moving forward, *Saldan* is the team to undertake the work. For their visionary aesthetic, care for quality, clear communication, and great sense of responsibility, I give Joey and his team my highest recommendation. They are among the very, very best.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me. 416-807-7892.

Sincerely,

Lisa Farley and RM Kennedy

