

"Wellspring LINDO"

February 2018

Dear Nino,

We wanted to reach out to you and tell you how happy we are with you, your company, and your excellent work.

As you know our project was one neither of us had done before.

It actually started around 8 years ago. Our local Zen Monastery wanted to get a huge "Bonsho" temple bell. I had zero experience with this topic but I knew the bell was around 6' tall and weighed around 2000 pounds. Ultimately years of research landed me in a 400 year old factory in northern Japan where they would make what we were looking for. While in Japan, I saw dozens of different temple bells. Most were hundreds of years old, housed in free standing post and beam structures with very elaborate, decorative roof lines. I was able to take several photos of various bell towers. To my amazement, outside of my traveling companion, no-one spoke English. This made it very difficult to inquire about the details of the building. The bell manufacturer insisted that they construct the bell tower and ship it to us. I was confident we could build it here without their assistance.

When I returned home, I immediately began to consider my options to build the tower. With a 40 year residential background in construction, I had built a few post and beams homes and certainly renovated lots of them. However; in each instance we had sub contracted the post and beam work, and done all the other related construction. I started to look into post and beam contractors and was immediately interested in Post and Beam Homes because they were located locally. I called them and got Nino. It probably wasn't a typical call for Nino. Our request to build a free standing structure of which I did not know the size, width, height, materials, or structure requirements. But, he took it all in stride. I realized immediately that he really knew what he was talking about. I sent him a few pictures of towers I had seen in Japan but no plan or specifications. Over the next few weeks we had several phone conversations. Nino was extremely easy to deal with. His questions were simple and direct, and his suggestions were very well thought out. Within a month, he had sent me a plan with elevations and dimensions. They were a complete set of drawings anyone could have used. At this time, we didn't even have a contract, or for that matter, a budget. The more I spoke with him, the more I was convinced of his qualifications and competence. After a few minor changes, all was good. Nino sent me a contract with construction schedule and a very competitive price. We started the process immediately.

When the material arrived to his shop, Nino invited us to see it. I still had not met him, and in retrospect, I laugh, because I broke several of my own rules! I had given him money without knowing him. I had not checked their references, or looked at their existing projects. I also had not gotten insurance certificates from them. As soon as we arrived at Post and Beam Homes, I knew I would have nothing to worry about. The shop was fascinating, impeccably organized and very well laid out. The tools were in good shape and very well kept. It seemed like they had every piece of equipment they would ever need. We could feel the pride that they have for their work.

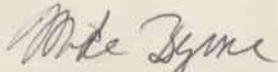
Traditional Rinzai Zen Practice

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The building arrived to us ahead of schedule. The workers were experienced, hard working, neat, clean and friendly. When we had questions, comments or concerns, they would stop their work, and politely address them. We watched their seamless erection of our beautifully built house. The cuts were perfect and everything fit tightly. We were delighted by the whole process and would recommend Post and Beam Homes without reservation.

Sincerely,



Michael Byrne
President / Caretaker