



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ROWING ASSOCIATION

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To whom it may concern:

I had the pleasure of working with Jeff Peterson throughout the conception, design and construction of the Shea Rowing Center project at Princeton University. He was the heart and sole of this remarkably successful project, and I unequivocally recommend him.

The project was initiated by the Princeton University Rowing Association in 1996. As President, and having a legal background in construction and design, I called on Jeff for an early assessment of the possibilities because of his unique experience. Jeff's conception was the basis for our obtaining the University's agreement to go forward with the project and our successful solicitation of its funding from more than 1200 rowing alumni and friends.

According to University policy, a request for qualifications was issued for the design services, and ARC was selected from a very impressive group of proposers, largely because of Jeff's experience. This was an extremely important and delicate project that would have a major effect, either positive or negative, on the future of a 125-year tradition, and it was critical that it be done sensitively and correctly with quality, professionalism and attention to detail.

The project involved the renovation of the 85-year-old Princeton boathouse and a substantial addition that added two boat bays to the existing six, a new, state-of-the-art rowing tank, one very large and two smaller training rooms, and offices. Because of the history of and emotional attachment to the existing building, the challenge was to renovate without removing the soul of the building and to add a new structure that, while not identical, would be seen as both new and a logical part of the old.

As the design evolved, Jeff demonstrated an unusual ability to translate the needs of a diverse group of stakeholders. I have always felt that the mark of an excellent architect is the ability to find solutions that are obvious only in retrospect. Three aspects of the design come to mind as examples. First, the

conversion of the tower into the entrance. Second, the relocation of the major axis on the second floor to a hallway along the length of the boathouse along the lake side. Last, the use of a curve reminiscent of the adjacent Washington Road bridge in the monumental window of the addition.

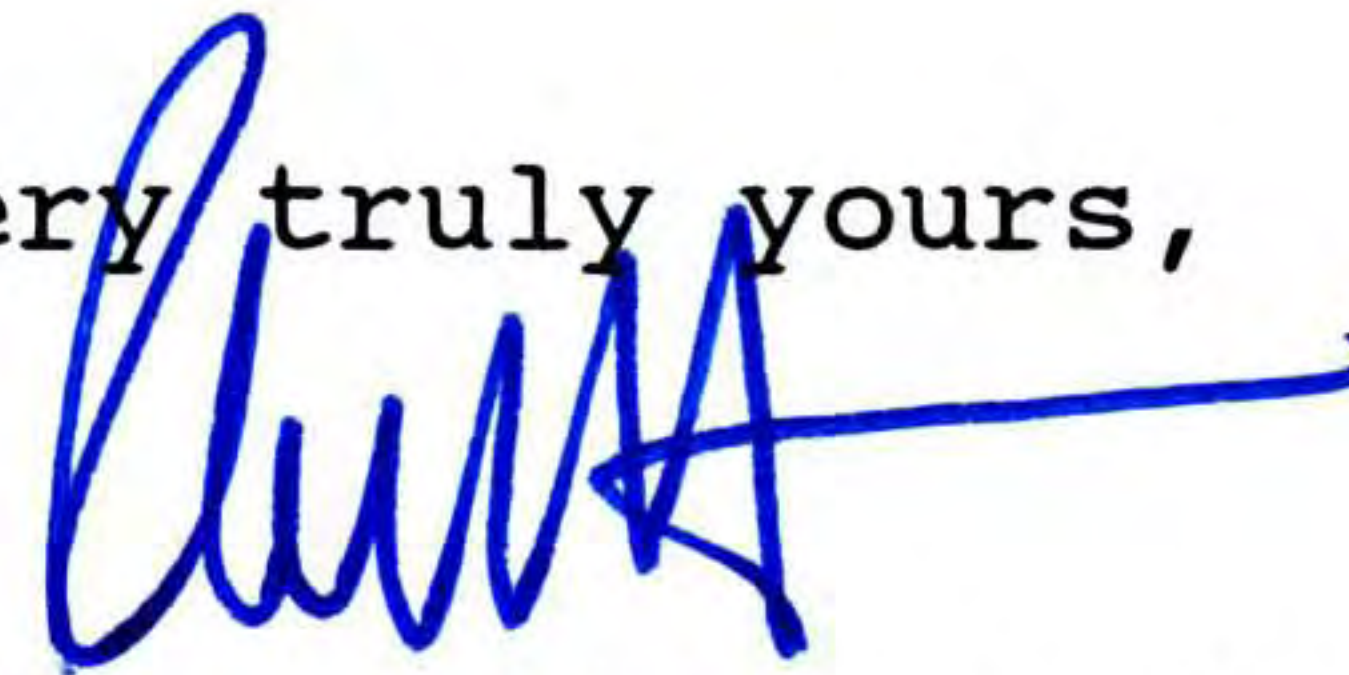
In addition to these solutions, several other specifics evidencing the quality of the design come to mind. The design of the wood ceiling and roof of the addition is a masterful creation that recalls the interior structure of wooden racing boats. The skylight created in the tower is a fantastic final touch to the centrality of the tower. The attention to detail in the woodwork, trim, and graphics is superb.

Jeff was tireless in advocating the interests of the owner and the users, maintaining the standards of the design, and cooperating with a difficult contractor. The result has been spectacular, of exceptionally high quality, and on time and under budget.

We could not be happier with Jeff's work or with the rowing center that he helped create. Jeff has unique experience, skill, professionalism and sensitivity, and we appreciate his efforts.

I would be please to discuss our experience you. Feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Richard Ottesen Prentke '67
President