



TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Department of Physical Education
Athletics and Recreation

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To whom it may concern:

I've been involved in rowing as an athlete, coach and administrator since 1968. I was fortunate to have been introduced to the sport as an undergraduate at Yale, and have coached at five colleges since 1972. We've rowed out of grand edifices and wedding tents, so I can confidently say I've seen it all, from the mundane to the magnificent.

I can truthfully say that building the William A. Shoemaker Boathouse at Tufts University with Jeff Peterson was a high point of 35+ years of experience in the rowing community. I walked into my relationship with Jeff with eyes wide open, convinced that I knew what kind of boathouse I wanted to build for Tufts, and the attributes necessary for it to function well and be a visible asset to the greater university community.

In retrospect, I got significantly more than I bargained for. Jeff listened, he respected my experiences, and designed a building which surpassed my wildest dreams. It goes beyond the vision I thought I had, in large measure because the design and implementation were a truly collaborative venture. Jeff was able to take my internal vision, tweak it, expand on it, and mold it in a way that the end result was a structure that not only looks great, but is functional without a measurable fault. Further, its integration to and connection with the Malden River and River's Edge Park is organic. Indeed, I will challenge anyone to show me a new boathouse that fits a site better or "feels" as comfortable.

The downstairs boat bays are wide, permitting easy access to the boat racks while allowing freedom of movement in and out. The brick terrace is multi functional as well as visually striking. But the signature feature of the boathouse is the upstairs meeting and exercise room. When you enter the room at the top of the stairs, your eyes naturally gaze upward, at the wooden single gracefully suspended in the clerestory. Gazing beyond that towards the river the view is uninterrupted. Bamboo floors, two glass walls, and the wrap around porch all reinforce the feeling that you could literally reach out and touch the stately willow tree and river just yards away. There is a grand office with sweeping views, and two multipurpose locker/meeting rooms flooded with morning and afternoon sun.

People generally leave the building happier than when they enter it. How many boathouses can you say empower their clientele in that fashion? In the end, the resulting building reflects the shared passions of designer and coach, and is better for it.

Throughout the entire design, permitting and construction process, Jeff was enthusiastic, professional, and passionate about the project. If you want a collaborative experience, or you wish to rely more predominately on Jeff's years of experience and expertise, you will move through a successful and satisfying partnership. If you need further convincing pay us a visit or view the pictures online at <http://peterson-architects.com>.

Gary R. Caldwell
Director of Rowing
Tufts University

Medford, Massachusetts 02155
617 627-3232