



ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL

January 3, 2008

Jeffrey D. Peterson
Peterson Architects
1132 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Jeff,

This is an embarrassingly long overdue and undoubtedly woefully inadequate note of thanks for the extraordinary work you did in designing the Crumpacker Boathouse at St. Paul's School.

The building is a marvel. It artfully blends innovative and appropriate design with function. In the context of St. Paul's School, which like some other institutions can be a victim of its own resources and the breadth of its imagination when it comes to the construction of buildings, much of the Crumpacker Boathouse's genius is in the fact that it does not outdo itself. You and your team did an incredible job of studying the School's unique rowing history (two clubs) and the natural environment of Turkey Pond to design a building that works seamlessly with these disparate, but central, elements. It is a building that belongs (which in the spirit of full disclosure was an ultimate achievement I initially thought would elude the skill of any architect).

Why does the Crumpacker Boathouse work so well? In terms of functionality, it addresses every one of our programmatic needs. We now have warm, well-light spaces for our athletes and visitors and more space for our boats. You did a particularly impressive job of making our docks more accessible for visiting crews by defining the space between the existing boathouses. Not only is it functional, but it is a beautiful space—a seemingly natural gateway to Turkey Pond.

The majestic multipurpose room offers a space for athletes and spectators to gather and to display some of the School's rowing history. This incredible exposed-beam room is the focal point of the building's interior, which with its exposed timbers also creates a dialogue with the tall white pines that surround the building's exterior. This room, like the entire building, not only borrows from the immediate natural environment, but it also participates in it.

We are very proud of this building and I hope you are too. For all the right reasons—the way it works with the natural environment and reflects a proud rowing tradition at St. Paul's (a tradition that values both style and performance) to name two—the Crumpacker Boathouse is one of the most impressive buildings at St. Paul's School. Congratulations and thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Hirschfeld
Vice Rector for External Affairs