

June 25, 2024

To the Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association:

At the height of the pandemic, we made the decision to sell our beloved starter home in Toronto and move to Ottawa with our two young children to build our forever home. We were craving more green space and were keen to escape the noisy city for a more tranquil lifestyle.

We immediately hit the ground running to find a builder in Ottawa that could help us achieve our dream. After a few scheduled zoom calls with other reputable builders in the city, we instantly knew that Gordon Weima was the ultimate choice. We immediately felt excited and inspired, fully trusting that he would be able to bring this project to life — and that he did!

Soon after our initial phone call, we fell upon a 2.8 acre lot of interest on a beautiful established street with a creek along the back. Gordon was kind enough to meet us on site during one of our trips up to Ottawa and reassured us that this lot was THE lot... you could see the wheels were already spinning in his head while walking the site together. Making this decision was simple under his guidance and about one week later, we were the proud owners of a beautiful piece of land. We quickly began putting together a project brief with sketches and mood boards, and so began the wonderful journey of working with Gordon Weima.

Our builder has an incredible eye for detail and a deep passion for building custom homes. He brought so much knowledge and expertise to the table during the architectural phase and proposed several unique details that have become our favourite parts of our home; large picture frame windows, a stunning barrel-arch hallway connecting the kitchen to the dining room, sensor lights underneath the vanities in the primary bathroom (which makes us feel like we're at a hotel each and every day) and an exquisite covered porch with a fireplace off the living room, to name a few.

His expertise extends beyond being an incredible builder; he's a skilled project manager, architect and designer all-in-one. We had a very clear vision of the style of home we wanted to build, and being a designer myself, I had already started selecting most of the materials and finishes for the entire home. The process felt so collaborative and we always felt that he had a sense of pride in the home he was building for us; as if it were his own. He truly understood our aesthetic and was skilled in guiding us throughout the entire journey to make sure we felt confident in our decisions.

The experience of building our home definitely tested our patience at times, but Gordon was always supportive, calm and composed. He had the ability to deal with any and all issues as they arose, so we always felt that we were in good hands. Gordon also helped us navigate price increases and supply chain challenges during the pandemic and was incredible at keeping us in the loop from an overall budget standpoint. Even though it was our decision to sometimes go with more expensive outcomes, Gordon always presented rational alternatives on where else to save money amongst different trades and material selections.

He is extremely well-respected within the industry by his peers and trades, so much so that our 5,600 square foot home was completed within 14 months of putting that first shovel in the ground (in the middle of a pandemic, to boot). You can tell how dedicated he is to building relationships with his trades, who would drop anything to accommodate his schedule and project timelines. This speaks volumes about the person and builder that he is.

It was such an honour to work with Gordon Weima over the course of 2+ years and he is so deserving of the recognition for the GOHBA's Custom Home Builder of the Year.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Simon and Mathieu Plouffe
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