

Getting to Know You

By Tom Boylan

Oh so many years ago I bought a house in Bodega Bay. It was a perfect waterfront home with a view that was worth much more than the home itself. My wife and I decided this was the spot to build our future, but first we had to rebuild our newly acquired home.



After the sale closed, we met our neighbor, who introduced us to the history of the house that would demand TLC in order to make coastal life enjoyable. It turned out that the original owner of the property had paid all of \$40 for the right to the view. He then worked a deal on a salvaged building offered by the military and had the building which we would call home cut into 10' wide strips and trucked to Bodega Bay.

Remodeling a home can be a most rewarding experience, and then again it can be an excruciatingly slow process that leads to heated discussions on progress and direction. To say that I was young and foolish in my attempt to tackle a major remodel without the help of a designer, contractor, and family counselor is a dramatic understatement.

It's been years since the divorce, and the house was sold to a couple that also fell in love with the view, but hired a contractor to remodel the remodel. The lesson learned is that there are professionals out there who can help keep your life together while you tear apart the home, and in the end you'll be better off in every way.

One of those companies that specialize in remodeling is Golden Restoration and Construction in Novato.

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I enjoy their slogan, "Remodel it right the first time."

Gary Cohen incorporated 3 years ago and has made dramatic changes possible for many North Bay residents and businesses. The staff of near 60 workers includes an in-house architect along with craftsman from just about every form of construction, including woodwork, tile and marble craftsman, painters and landscapers.

It appears there is no job that they can't do, including windows. They carry the Hunter-Douglas window fashions. Their website (www.goldenrandc.com) lists the variety of jobs from general repairs, additions and concrete work to



masonry and landscaping. It goes on to state, "Our experts will design and build your retaining walls, fences, redwood decks and recommend the best materials for your roof, gutters, kitchen, tile and marble. Our painters are experienced and pay attention to the smallest of details. We also specialize in electrical work, plumbing, bathrooms, stairs, skylights, stucco and drywall."

There are many others who will stand behind the companies reputation, including endorsements from Frank Howard Allen Realtors, and Pro-Mortgage. Golden State has also received an honorable rating from the Better Business Bureau for the past three years.

Although they primarily work in Marin, according to Cohen, "We have been active from Sonoma to San Francisco. We invite potential clients to call us and discuss a free inspection and estimate on their next project." I have to agree it's a lot easier to ask an expert remodeler how to repair, restore or remodel a home than it is to risk a relationship. Give a call to the folks that can remodel it right the first time. **Golden Restoration and Construction Inc., 21 Commercial Blvd. Suite 14, Novato (415) 382-8648**

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Contact Tom Boylan at Getting to Know You

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