

Who Can You Trust?

Certainly, you had better be able to trust your designers.

After all, they interpret your objectives, tastes and life- or work-style; steward your budget; and monitor the construction and finishing process to make sure you get that to which you agreed and for which you paid.

IN8's design of a remarkable Toronto pied-à-terre for a Florida couple is a perfect example of how that trust can be rewarded.

Taking a leap of faith

Don and Michel were retained to provide a complete scope of services for a massive renovation, from initial concept through project management to the very last accessory placement. That the communication would be almost entirely by phone and email was a huge declaration of trust on both sides.

A second leap of faith occurred when the designers were trusted to resolve the couple's stylistic differences, challenged to somehow balance his contemporary tastes and her love of a traditional aesthetic.

Three months after the contract, the couple flew to Toronto for a 1-week visit. They approved the initial concept enthusiastically as well as the specified furnishings, materials and finishes confirmed in a whirlwind 'shopping tour' guided by the designers.

For the next seven months, IN8 managed the complex and painstaking renovation, keeping the clients up to date through progress photos and email reports. The apartment was completely gutted, with plumbing and other services rerouted, awkwardly angled spaces squared, and simple, functional architectural details added.

Enjoying a brilliant result

The final post construction review was a joyous experience for designers and clients alike. The couple's verdict was that the design was brilliant, the execution flawless, and the experience stress-free.

Elegantly organized and superbly finished, the renovated apartment seen here perfectly reflects the couple's lifestyle in an exquisite contemporary setting in which their fine antique furnishings and accessories capture attention as never before.