



May 13, 2020

To whom it may concern,

I'm pleased to recommend Sam French as an excellent choice for the job of creating custom furniture pieces for the Smith library. I understand he will be working with wood from an historic tree felled on campus – this is just the kind of design brief that brings out the best in Sam and I can't wait to see what he creates should you select him!

I am the co-founder of Greenspace CoWork, a network of collaborative workspaces in Greenfield, MA and I write this letter from a beautiful, one-of-a-kind desk Sam built for my business. When building out our most recent space, we needed a craftsman who could add some aesthetic personality and soul to an otherwise very sterile and outdated office environment. Working with Sam to tackle the challenge was an absolute pleasure, especially when we toured his shop and saw first-hand his knowledge of local, heritage lumber and milling and woodworking traditions. He ultimately created a suite of gorgeous wall casings, desks, live-edge counters, and other creative custom details for the most prominent rooms in our space. The showstopper is a long, live-edge tiger maple countertop and matching side tables with a deep, undulating visual texture that shimmers and ripples in the light like I've never seen in a piece of woodwork.

In case it wasn't clear yet, I consider Sam an artist and a master at his craft. He really knows how to bring out the essence of a piece of wood both in his carpentry and finishing and he's experienced and skilled with all sorts of species and aesthetics.

As a contractor and collaborator, Sam was very professional and responsive, helping us navigate a challenging project successfully on both the creative and business sides of the equation. He seems perpetually positive and spending time with him is always uplifting – especially when in the presence of his work taking shape.

I'd be more than happy to speak with you further about my experience working with Sam, don't hesitate to reach out!

Thank you,

Jeff Sauser

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