

SARAH NOLAN

INTERIOR DESIGN

May 8, 2020

Smith College
10 Elm Street
Northampton, MA 01063

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write a letter of recommendation for Sam French. Sam is a true craftsman, taking great pride in his work, executing beautifully finished furniture, and enhancing an interior's character with his pieces. He would be an excellent candidate to build new tables and benches for the Neilson Library, using wood slabs from an American Elm tree on your campus.

I had the opportunity to work with Sam to create a custom conference table for the primary conference room at a local non-profit. The room would be used to host board meetings and large staff meetings, and boasted a special location within the space with windows wrapping two sides and a view to marsh land. We wanted a unique table to anchor the room and reflect the character of the organization, while being durable and functional. Sam delivered. He worked collaboratively with us, listening carefully to our requirements for the table. He gave perceptive and creative feedback, fine tuning certain details and making design suggestions of his own. For example, knowing the vibrant and innovative character of the non-profit, he suggested using reclaimed metal sewing machine bases to create the table base. This suggestion tied in with the client's aesthetic, was a sustainable repurposing of material, and saved the client money. Sam provided clear shop drawings and detailed images of our wood slabs before proceeding. His great attention to and respect for the character of the wood he was working with is evident in the final result: a live-edge cherry top that is absolutely stunning.

Throughout the design and fabrication process Sam was responsive and attentive to our project. His warm personality and openness to collaboration, in addition to his skilled craftsmanship, made him a valued member of our project team. A staff member at the non-profit has since commissioned Sam to custom build her family's dining room table, she was so impressed with his work.

I would happily work with Sam on any custom furniture project in the future, as I have great confidence in his craft. I believe he would treat this very special opportunity to make furniture for your campus with the great care and respect it deserves. If you have any further questions or require additional information, I would be happy to discuss my experiences with Sam further.

Sincerely,



Sarah Nolan, NCIDQ
Interior Designer
Sarah Nolan Interior Design