

HEATHER R. SHAMSAI BASIL WILLIAMS

When we engaged Cotel Contracting to combine two apartments in a Greenwich Village cooperative building, we were nervous – this was going to be a big project and we had heard horror stories about contractors walking out in the middle of a project, or taking shortcuts to get the work done faster. Given that both apartments were essentially being gutted and a stairway was being put in between them, our concerns about a bad experience were heightened. Also, because we were necessarily renting temporary space and a series of storage units during the renovation, we were anxious to have the job done as quickly as possible and to be completed on time.

Little did we know that we had hired the “No Problem” team! Zvi Greenheim and his workers could not have been more professional, pleasant or easy going. On the few occasions that either of us had an issue with something that was done, Zvi (or the foreman, or the electrician, or whoever was in charge of that particular aspect) would say “No problem!” What a pleasure! Zvi himself was on site every single day, overseeing the progress and addressing the myriad of small issues that arise each step of the way. When a plan in the design presented an unexpected construction problem (due, for instance, to an unexpected supporting beam that was only discovered upon demolition), Zvi was able to work around the problem, maintaining the integrity, spirit and beauty of the design while solving the construction problem. He truly treats each project as if it is his own home and he will have to live personally with the consequences of each decision.

Zvi and his team finished the project on time and on budget, an incredible accomplishment given the size and scope of the necessary work. Cooperatives in general are known for being difficult about renovations and wary of any possible disruptions to the other shareholders. Zvi was able to work with the building staff to schedule the work and coordinate clean up activities that worked for everyone and he satisfied even our exceptionally protective superintendent. And in the time that Cotel Contracting was working, there was not one single complaint about them, either from us, from any tenant in the building or from the co-op itself.

Without reservation, we would recommend Zvi Greenheim and Cotel Contracting to anyone seeking to engage a contractor. The expertise and professionalism that Zvi brings to his craft is nothing short of amazing. In a world of cookie cutter homes, irresponsible workers and litigious clients, Cotel Contracting brings a craftsmanship not often seen anymore. Who would think that a pair of cynical New Yorkers would say that they loved their contractor!

Heather Shamsai & Basil Williams