



SMOOTH AND EASY

PROJECTS BY GIFFIN AND CRANE
is Giving Remodels a New Reputation

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Portrait photos by Meshosh Dziadzio



BEFORE (left):
 Jaffurs Master Bath: The 1970s- era with beige carpeting, salt and mineral deposit obscured shower glass, had an awkward entrance into the tub/shower combo.

AFTER:
 New bamboo flooring from A.C. Ramirez Floor Coverings, custom vanity of quarter sawn rift oak (Architectural Millworks) with Starck vessel sink and faucet, limestone top (Armstrong Marble), Mist shower enclosure and door (SB Glass) and new walk-in closet from California Closets.

BUILDER PROFILE



Cherilyn Milton, Christi Kaefer and Sean Downen discuss a project (top). (Above) The before and after of a simple, yet important addition of a railing and seat that improved the safety of this stairway. (Opposite) Miller-Fisher Childs Room Book shelves: 2" thick Poplar with Semi-Gloss finish (Kimzey Painting)



Stairway and bookcase photos courtesy of Giffin & Crane

Giffin and Crane, general contractors, is a well established, highly respected, fine homebuilding company that has been in business in Santa Barbara for over two decades. But where can homeowners who may just need a hand railing, bookshelves or a room remodel, turn? Projects by Giffin and Crane. The sub-company, which turns two in June, was designed to take on “smaller projects” with the same professionalism, integrity, and expertise as its parent company. Managed by a dynamo team consisting of Christi Kaefer (President), Cherilyn Milton (Vice President), and Sean Downen (Operations Manager/“token guy”), Projects has been busy with small to mid-size construction challenges. No remodeling job too challenging or too small for this friendly, service-oriented company.

One couple needed a hand railing installed for their “aging-in place.” This may not sound like much, but anyone who has broken a hip, suffered an injury, or may be anticipating old age, knows that finding something suitable, not to mention architecturally com-

patible in a historic home, can be daunting. The team did so effectively and efficiently. So well, in fact, they were hired on for additional house improvements, staying on the job for three months.

For Santa Barbara winemaker Craig Jaffurs and his wife, children’s book author Lee Wardlaw-Jaffurs, Projects turned a sow’s purse bathroom into a silk purse *salle du bain*.

“Cherilyn was creative, patient, diplomatic, thorough, and helpful,” says Lee, in a glowing website testimonial for the company, “Her authentic enthusiasm for our project was palpable – and it never waned. Her crew was made up of expert craftsmen who were friendly, fastidious, and flexible. Punctual, too. And, whenever possible, they worked around *our* schedule, not theirs.”

Not bad praise for a project that included a master bath, master bedroom and entryway remodel.

For another couple’s 1,400 square foot, 100-year-old house—that included a young a child and a dog—undergoing a master bedroom and kitchen remodel proved to be a

“very intimate process.”

The process all begins with a Scope sheet—a work sheet and estimate that includes job descriptions, materials, and most importantly, completion dates. Jobs by Projects can include pulling permits, demolition, electrical and plumbing needs, down to finishing touches ranging from unique tiles and interesting hardware.

Much of the team’s projects come from word of mouth, and Projects supports local companies such as Da Ross Masonry, A.C. Ramirez, and ABS Glass. They also “love green” and encourage eco-friendly building materials.

“We like to run our company like the Girls, Inc. motto Strong, Smart and Bold,” noted Cherilyn, which is not far off from Projects at Giffin and Crane’s own mission statement: “Making small changes that make big impacts in people’s lives.”

Mission accomplished.

PROJECTS BY GIFFIN & CRANE,
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