

## Weaver homebuilding experience with Tim O'Brien Homes 2008-2009

Why, in today's market, would we move out of a perfectly good home that we enjoyed? Our situation was unique. We needed to find a place that would accommodate our horses and allow us to stay in the Southern Kettle Moraine area. After searching many properties, the conclusion was to build our own place. Yikes! If someone had told me we'd be building a new house and live to tell about it, I never would have believed it. So the search was on for the land. Actually, a beautiful parcel that would accommodate both our needs and those of our horses kind of found us. Now it was time to find a builder. Again, I never thought we'd ever be able to build and whom on Earth could we trust? We had heard horror story after horror story of people being left with unfinished homes, inferior construction, and builders going out of business. My husband and I narrowed the field of builders and thought we had found "the one". We even had a house plan all set, but something was not sitting right with me. Then, one morning I caught a segment of Builder's Showcase on TV. There was Tim O'Brien. My first thought was, is this guy for real? On television? Then I listened to the show and thought about what he said. I liked what I heard. A short while later, I received an e-mail from a friend. She knew we had settled on a builder and didn't want to interfere, but she couldn't hold out any longer. There, in her e-mail, she asked if I would consider talking to a different builder. I laughed when I saw the name, Tim O'Brien. Now, I'm not one who believes in things happening by chance. I am a firm believer in things happening for a reason.

Being in the real-estate business and having built three homes herself, our friend's opinion was very important to us. Of course this meant it was time to set up a meeting with Tim. Keep in mind that my husband and I are pretty conservative with our investments and not at all risk takers. Tim made us feel totally at home from the get go. He wasn't pushy like some other builders we had talked with. Tim listened intently to us as we shared our wishes and needs with him. We liked his philosophy and the fact that he was a "green" builder was a bonus. As he showed us the model his office was in, we could see the high quality in the materials he used. We were amazed at how many things that had been "options" with other builders were standard with Tim O'Brien Homes. Our heads were spinning with all the many things to think about, but we never felt rushed or looked down on with our bazillions of questions. Tim took the time to go over all the details and was very helpful and patient as we came to a decision on a final building plan. While we weren't building one of those McMansions, this was OUR dream home and we never felt that the size of our home made a difference in the attention we received. When all was said and done, we truly were able to get much more house for our dollar than we could have with the other builders we spoke with and still receive the high quality and energy efficiency we were looking for.

I think one of the reasons our building experience was so positive, is the fact that working with Tim O'Brien Homes was like working with one big family. We had the pleasure of getting to know just about all the contractors who worked on our home and Tim and his staff took a genuine interest in us. Tim even remembered all of our critters' names! We never felt they were just building another house, but OUR dream home. Another plus was Tim's willingness to look outside the box so to speak. Because we were also building a barn for the horses, he was a HUGE help there too. We did much of the work on the barn ourselves, but I was able to coordinate the building materials with Tim so the barn matched the house. Oh, and did I mention they finished our home ahead of schedule? Despite the wild winter weather conditions, the contractors were diligent in staying on schedule and actually finished our home earlier than expected.

Would we build again? While I'm not planning on it, based on our experience with Tim O'Brien Homes, if the opportunity came up, of course we would. Would I build with Tim O'Brien Homes again? Most definitely! Would I recommend Tim O'Brien Homes to anyone else thinking of building? Absolutely!

Leslie & Chuck Weaver  
Palmyra, WI



Leslie Weaver  
Chad H. Weaver