

November 14, 2011

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of Ermias Ephrem, with whom in recent years I had the pleasure to work.

I was impressed with Ermias' work ethic from the start. He had a professional practice in his native Ethiopia, and worked on projects that incorporated contemporary design, sustainable practices, and regionally appropriate context. This appeared to make his transition to working in the Seattle area very natural. He understands the unique nature of contemporary architectural style in the Pacific Northwest, and is aware of its cultural and practical importance.

In 2007, when a project architect left our firm in the middle of producing construction documents for a new high school project, I was asked to assume his role and complete the production. Ermias was the only other full-time member of the team. He obviously knew the project and the design team much better than me, and I relied on him heavily to help bring me up to speed. His input was always respectful. He would defer to me for a decision, but never hesitated to step up when I couldn't answer a question.

Ermias is an eager learner as any architect should be. He absorbs new information quickly and contextually. He is able to apply that knowledge appropriately to other situations.

Ermias is a creative individual in every way. Not only is he artistic and thoughtful with design, he is able to see his way around challenges to find a beneficial solution. He is not quick to judge, as he understands the importance of looking at all sides of an issue.

Ermias is very skillful. He has been able to work with AutoCAD, Revit, and other relevant programs as each subsequent edition has been released.

Being a fellow architect, I see the expertise that Ermias has with design. He has a passion that addresses the performance and physical integrity of a building while still maintaining an appropriate visual impression. In my mind, that is the mark of an architect highly cognizant of his profession and the impact that the built environment has in our society.

I strongly recommend Ermias Ephrem for any architectural design or project management position that he seeks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Carver', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas Carver  
Architect, LEED AP ®

Northwest Washington Regional Coordinator, OSPI School Facilities & Organization

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