

In the News: Local Construction Firm Converts Helps Bring Award-Winning Barbeque Fare to New South Shore Location

Vision Builders Co. continues to generate buzz by completing build outs, renovations and remodels in record time.

April 30, 2007

FRAMINGHAM, MA... The high-profile general contracting firm, **Vision Builders Co.** recently completed the build-out of a new *Firefly's Bodacious Bar-B-Que & Beyond* restaurant at 516 Adams Street in Quincy. Firefly's, a dine-in/take out eatery specializing in homemade, barbeque and Southern-fare dishes, already has two locations, in Marlborough and Framingham.

Vision Builders specializes in build-outs and renovations for new and existing companies, and continues to meet its goal of completing projects in record time, against all odds.

The firm took on the task of converting a building in this bustling Quincy neighborhood from a former Italian eatery into a full-service restaurant and entertainment area that also features live music, big-screen sports, and billiards. The project was quite a challenge; considering the abbreviated time frame and complexity of the eatery's makeover. "We had three weeks to completely transform the space," says **Vision Builders** President Anthony Gagliardi. "Everything from new graphics, new flooring, new lighting, and new seating, to the installation of a sprinkler system, gas lines for an additional power source, and a new commercial barbeque smoker."

Gagliardi's team started the project in mid-March, and finished all construction just six weeks later. Occupancy permits were pulled on April 27th, and Firefly's opened its doors in Quincy just this week.

The newest member of the Firefly's family will have a more "urban chic" look than its counterparts, says Firefly's founder and owner Steve Uliss. "What was once a vast, open space, now has a more intimate feel. There's open duct work, more glass, and cut acrylic," he says. "It's just a little bit more sophisticated because of its proximity to the city."

Gagliardi did have his work cut out for him, but his long history with Uliss

helped speed the process. Steve and Anthony go way back; they first met when Gagliardi was showing the restaurateur office space in a building he owned. One of Anthony's first private sector projects back in 2003 was to turn an Applebee's into Firefly's Framingham location in just six short weeks, a job that required a great deal of structural and design changes, and no flexibility on an opening date. "I was so impressed with Anthony when we first worked together, says Uliss. "He's honest, respectful, and really lives and breathes with his client every step of the way. Most of all — he delivers."

Uliss was just as impressed by Gagliardi's no-nonsense demeanor, saying he's up front about what will work, what won't, and what the budget allows. "He's book smart and construction-site smart, and his crew will do just about anything for him."

Vision Builders Co. has done a great deal of work in the restaurant end of the construction business, since its first entrée with Firefly's more than 15 years ago. In the latter part of 2005, Gagliardi and his team completed a very abbreviated renovation for *Bob's Southern Bistro*, a well-established South End restaurant and catering business. The project, which included some remodeling and expanded seating, had to be completed in just two weeks. Earlier this year, the company turned a print shop into an Italian eatery called Comella's in West Roxbury in just over two months. Time and time again, **Vision Builders** has met its deadlines.

Those experiences and on-the-job training in a former family construction business has prepared Anthony Gagliardi well for the hurdles he faces every day. What's unique about his company, he says, is its ability to complete complex construction projects in just a few months, weeks or days. "Business owners are quick to realize that's out biggest selling point," admits Gagliardi. "When they want to capitalize on a growing marketplace, time is money."

Next on the books for **Vision Builders** — the newest location of Melt Gelato and Crepe Café, a West coast-based restaurant franchise coming this summer to the South Shore Plaza in Braintree, MA, and other area shopping malls. Plus, the build out of a brand new 6,000 square foot retail building in Dedham from the ground up. **VB** is also bidding on several other projects with national retail chains and franchises for the latter half of the year.

"Knowing the client, like Firefly's, means there's a level of trust there already," says Gagliardi. "We can meet on site, shake hands, and the deal is done. Then we set out to do whatever it takes to complete the job, and fulfill all of our promises." For Steve Uliss, it seems the proof is already in the pudding, or in this case, the hot sauce. "Anthony's the first person I call when I want to open a new location. He says 'we can do this by this date, and it's not going to cost you a million bucks,' " adds Uliss. "I have the utmost respect for the way he commands that respect from the people around him. He just makes the pressure go away."



*If you can envision it,
we can build it.*

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About Vision Builders Co.:

Vision Builders is a nationally-Recognized new breed of general contracting and construction management firm with a business model that places equal emphasis on the quality of the client experience as the quality of the finished product.

It focuses on developing close working relationships built upon shared vision, open dialog, and skilled craftsmanship. The private firm, established in 2005, works with new and existing companies in a variety of industries that require renovations and construction build-outs. Vision Builders has completed projects for several restaurants, well-known retail operation Work 'n Gear, with locations in Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and national Chain Mattress Discounters, with location in Virginia and Massachusetts.



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