

KENGO KUMA & ASSOCIATES

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LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT:

GERALD ROWLETT, WESTLAKE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

June 11, 2018

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of Gerald Rowlett and his team at Westlake Development, specifically with regard to the successful completion of our collaborative project for Street of Dreams' 2017 edition, "Suteki House."

My role as Partner and design director at Kengo Kuma & Associates (KAAA) requires a particular attention to detail and care in realization, a mentality that extends from the enthusiasm of my mentor and the head of our office, Kengo Kuma. We strive for agility, quality, and passion—and we had the great fortune in being so well-matched with Gerald and his team. This is not an easy task in Japan, where the standards are exacting and high; this is even more difficult in the U.S. wherein construction cultures might not always agree. Gerald kept the pace *and* these high standards every step of the way.

Moreover, a severely short timeline added impossible demand to the project's complexity, requiring delivery within four and a half months. Gerald was able to make this seem effortless, though the pressures were huge. I had the pleasure of running alongside him and his team during each visit from Japan, working around the clock and through numerous adjustments and revisions. Gerald's work was fast, precise, and full of passion and care. Most impressive was his calm demeanor and command throughout, like the calm eye in the center of the storm.

The best result of such a straining process was that we emerged not only with pride for a project well done, but with ongoing friendship and respect. I, along with my team at KAAA greatly anticipate our next collaboration.



Balazs Bognar AIA NCARB

Partner, Kengo Kuma & Associates