



 CONTRACTORS, BUILDERS
& CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS

Albino Construction**5****4.5****4.5****4.5**

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Fast-track, high-end construction and gut renovation

When the object is to move in by Thanksgiving, this firm talks turkey. Driven by principal Albino Martinez's personality, clients find the firm "bright, honest, quick and hardworking." Top-notch designers and architects love working with Martinez, who's steely competence and unrelenting effort make building the biggest and most daunting projects a piece of cake. Residential projects are centered in the Malibu/Beverly Hills/Pacific Palisades area and consist of both ground-up construction and heavy renovation work. Current projects range from 8,000 to 17,000 square feet. The firm's forte is traditional work—they don't do contemporary—supported by its own cabinet shop and finish carpenters. We hear the end product is unmatched.

In high demand, the firm does projects the "Albino way," which means extensive early planning to eliminate the potential for misunderstandings and pushing the envelope with double crews and six-day weeks. While insiders say meeting aggressive timetables is what makes Albino great, some clients say the atmosphere is a little brusque. Martinez makes his presence known daily at every project site, exerting control through masterful orchestration of highly responsible trades on site, who largely supervise each other. Clients tell us "every workman was fantastic" and at the end of the project they "actually missed them terribly."

Albino bills on a weekly time and materials basis. While the books are always transparent, the numbers are big. Of course for Albino's clients, the numbers on the calender are the ones that count.

"It could not have been a more positive experience. They are dedicated, honest, stand by their word and every promise is always kept." "Albino himself will strap on a belt and work it out." "I never saw anyone who will not go back to him." "Such a pleasure. Clients and designers love him." "In this land of litigation he's not into paperwork, just getting the job done." "Will make the house happen even if the design is incompetent." "The actual cost of Albino will always feel like it was a bargain, regardless of how much they charge." "Everything in our house works beautifully."