

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For Further Information, Contact:  
Paul Sapounzi, 519.754.1652  
psapounzi@ventingroup.com

# DAILY COMMERCIAL NEWS AND CONSTRUCTION RECORD

Daily Commercial News, August 18th, 2011

Hamilton, Ontario City Hall renovation was a 'juggling act'

PATRICIA WILLIAMS

Staff writer

The revitalization of Hamilton City Hall, a mid 20th century Modernist civic complex, in some respects entailed a juggling act in terms of blending elements of the building's heritage with new and modern amenities.

Designed in the 1950s by architect Stanley Roscoe, the eight-storey building officially opened in November, 1960. The renovation involved a comprehensive rehabilitation and upgrading of the 180,000-square-foot facility.

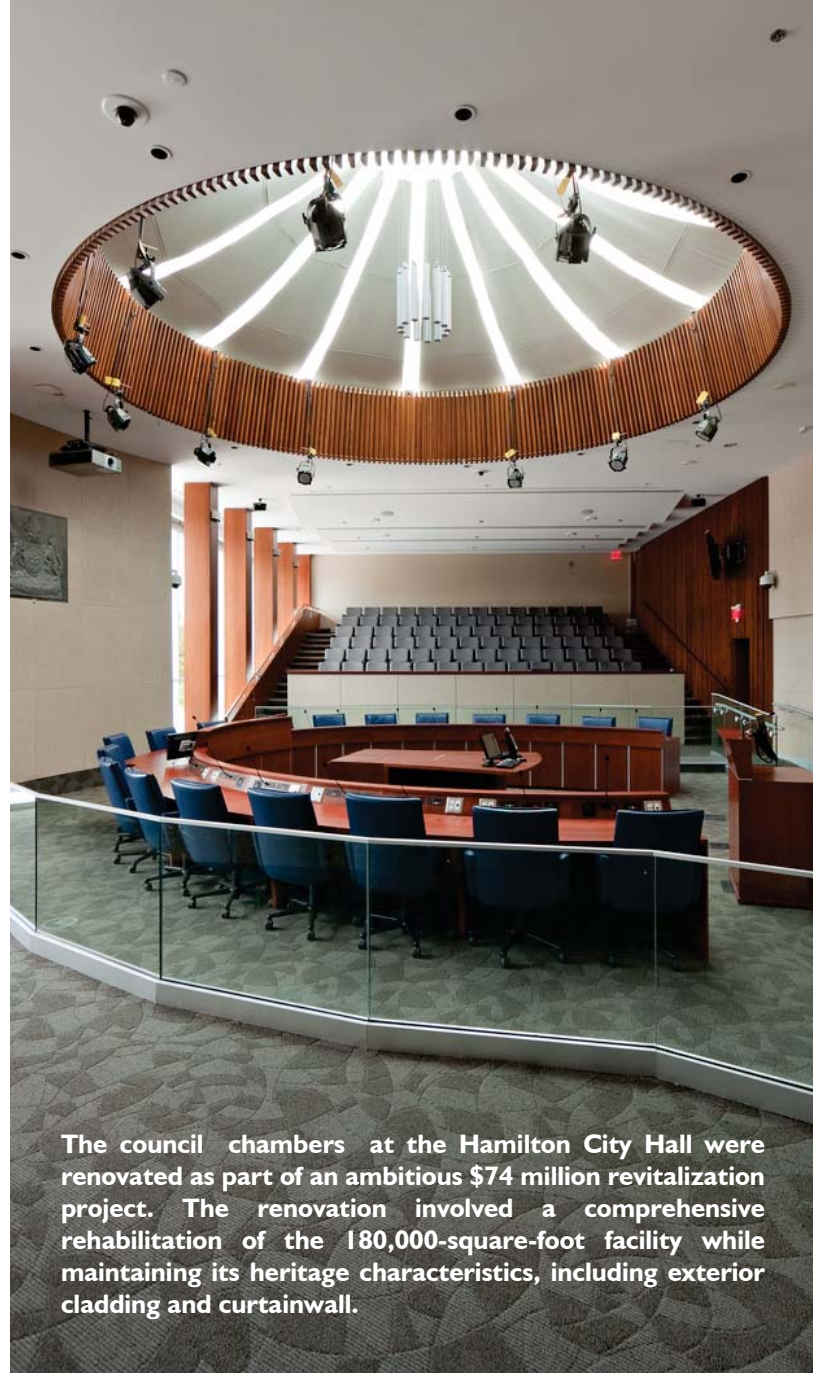
The work was undertaken under the direction of ABE, a joint venture between EllisDon and Black and McDonald. The team included project architects Garwood-Jones & Hanham Architects, associate architects McCallum Sather Architects Inc. and heritage consultants +VG Architects.

Paul Sapounzi, a partner in +VG, said the project was a complicated one in terms of the "wholesale" restoration of the building's interior and exterior and dealing with the addition of modern elements.

Renovations were undertaken to upgrade the building while maintaining its heritage characteristics. Improvements included replacement of the exterior cladding and curtainwall.

The primary materials of the exterior facade now include: white precast concrete over upgraded insulation and air / vapour barrier, curtainwall with high-performance glazing and integral sunshades; restored mosaic tile curtainwall spandrel panels, soffits and fascia with aluminum soffit panels, and restored black marble wall panels.

Materials used on the interior include marble service counters using new and salvaged marble, wood-slat ceilings, restored terrazzo floors throughout and restored wood wall panels on the second floor for the mayor's and councillors' offices. "It was a matter of understanding the heritage fabric of the building and developing contemporary methods for preserving the fabric that was



The council chambers at the Hamilton City Hall were renovated as part of an ambitious \$74 million revitalization project. The renovation involved a comprehensive rehabilitation of the 180,000-square-foot facility while maintaining its heritage characteristics, including exterior cladding and curtainwall.

there and also replicating material that was lost," Sapounzi said.

The \$74-million project, which was delivered on budget and ahead of schedule, also involved "a very lengthy and complicated" process of stakeholder consultations, said Sapounzi, who specializes in high-profile, public sector projects.

"There were a lot of different interest groups involved." The project team included mechanical and electrical consultants Group 8 Engineering, structural engineering consultants Shorn Consultants, Wendy Shearer Landscape Architect, civil engineering consultants MTE Consultants and building envelope consultant Brook Van Dalen. A number of specialized subtrades were involved as well.

**+VG Architects** is a full-service architectural firm offering new design, expansions and heritage restorations for cultural, educational, municipal, justice, healthcare, residential and recreational facilities. Our staff of 40 operates in four offices in Ontario, in Brantford, Toronto, London and Belleville. See [www.plusvg.com](http://www.plusvg.com) for more information.