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

+ VG Architects Revitalize a Modern 20th Century Landmark

“Hamilton City Hall” Award magazine excerpts by Angela Altass Aug. 10th 2010

“Hamilton City Hall has undergone an extensive revitalization project that successfully blends elements of the building’s proud heritage with new and modern amenities,” says Janet Warner, project manager with the City of Hamilton. “The \$74M 180,000 square foot project was successfully completed May 2010 and the project was delivered on budget and ahead of schedule.”

+ VG Architects were appointed as heritage architecture conservation specialists for all the interior and exterior work (excluding landscaping and replacement of the cladding of the original marble exterior).

The primary materials of the exterior facade included white precast concrete over upgraded insulation and air/vapour barrier; curtain wall with high performance glazing

and integral sunshades; restored mosaic tile curtain wall spandrel panels, soffits and fascia with aluminum soffit panels, and restored black marble wall panels.

Materials used on the interior included new marble service counters using both new and salvaged marble, wood slat ceilings, restored terrazzo floors throughout, and restored wood wall panels on the second floor for Mayor and Councillors’ offices.

Salvaged existing murals and mosaic tile walls throughout and a new colour pallet blended with original Modernist aesthetic.

“Some key heritage features include the International style of the City Hall, the Italian glass mosaic tiles found throughout the interior and the extensive use of marble finishes” says +VG Architect Kevin Church.

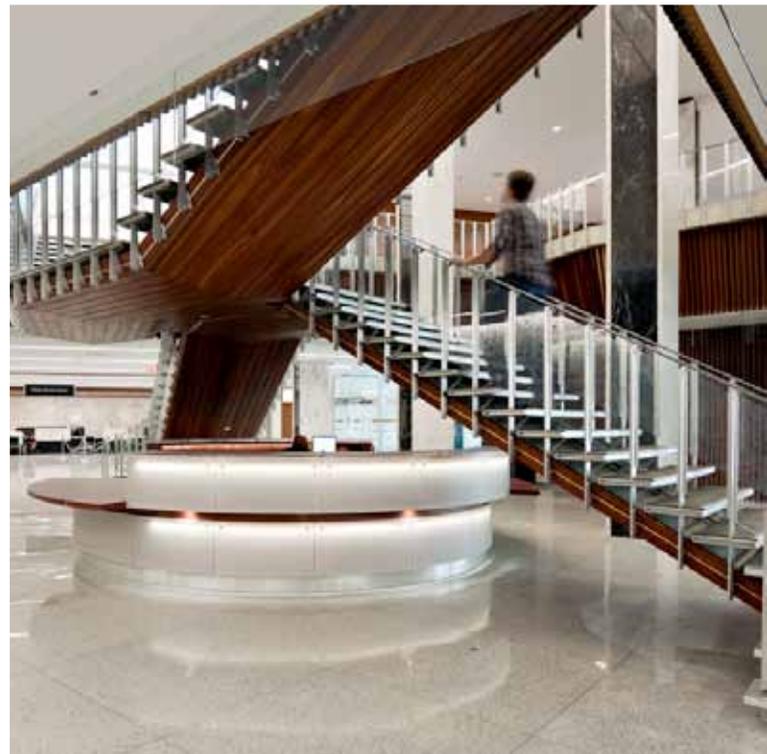
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Above - Council chambers



+VG Architects
“A New Breed
of Restoration”



Right - Main reception, Atrium

“Walnut and teak wood finishes complement the aluminum central staircase and the restored skylight brightens and warms the council chambers. Four beautiful murals were retained at the second floor level.”

This was one of the most modern heritage revitalization projects +VG Architects have been involved with, says Church. “During the early stages of the project tradesmen would ask why we were protecting and retaining various heritage elements, but during the final stages of the project they remarked at how great they looked.”

“Working with modern products to match the original materials was different from other projects we’ve been involved with. A lot of the interior finishes were previously covered and protected from the asbestos removal process prior to +VG arriving on site, and were not exposed

until it was time to restore or refinish during the final stage of the revitalization project.”

“The Italian glass mosaic tile revealed some surprises and challenges” says Church. “Original drawings indicated tiles were to be mounted on glass spandrel panels, but instead, they were found to be mounted on 16 foot-long by 4 foot-high steel framed panels infilled with a concrete plaster system to support the tile” Church explains.

Finding matching tiles to replace those damaged and missing, while maintaining the original pattern and design, was a challenge overcome by +VG.

“Matching the original luminous ceiling panel design to replace the missing and damaged panels was also complicated.”

+VG Architects are very proud to have retained restored & recycled one of the best remaining International designed City Halls in Canada.

+VG Architects collaborated with Garwood-Jones & Hanham Architects and McCallum Sather Architects.

Below - Mosaic, Atrium

Right - Council chambers

