

Recreational

Client:

GWL Realty Advisors Inc.

Architect:

Webb Zerafa Menkes Housden

Location:

Toronto, ON

Project Details:

This project involved the restoration and redevelopment of the Carlu at Toronto's College Park. This challenging project involved the restoration of the original Eaton's Auditorium, a landmark theatre and entertainment facility designed in the art moderne style by Architect Jacques Carlu in 1931. Although designated as an official heritage site, the original facility had been abandoned for years and had fallen into a major state of disrepair.

While much of the restoration work was out in the open, the work 'behind the scenes' was often even more challenging. While entering the Carlu may make a visitor feel like they've just stepped back in time, the facility now functions with state of the art infrastructure and technology. As the painstaking work of restoration was going on in front, back of house systems were completely replaced to ensure the Carlu can meet the needs of any type of event.

Stepping off the main elevator you enter the Grand Foyer, a 10,000 square foot space with 3 permanent bars and space to accommodate 1700 people. The concert hall can accommodate 1000 patrons for stage events or 680 with tables. The Round Room features 380 seats, a circular design and domed ceiling with stunning lighting and a complete sound system. The original Lalique fountain has been fully restored and Madame Carlu's original Art Moderne murals adorn the walls. The Carlu also features the Clippers Rooms, two private dining rooms that can be used together or separately and the Sky room, the Carlu's only 'new' main function space which can accommodate 450 guests.

The Carlu



"It is no secret how much both we, and the rest of the Carlu team, have enjoyed working with both Mike and Sal over these past two years. In fact when asked what our key success factors were in launching the Carlu, both Mike and Sal are always mentioned...always prepared to come up with creative solutions to address challenging situations, has enabled us to overcome what seemed like almost daily hurdles in restoring The Carlu. The trust we had in them, allowed us to make informed decisions expeditiously, never jeopardizing the extremely tight time frame that we had..."

Mark Robert & Jeff Roick
The Carlu

This project was awarded the Toronto Construction Associations' "2003 Best of the Best Project Achievement Award - Small Project Category" which is the industry's most prestigious awards program. This award recognizes the excellence of the companies and individuals that provide exceptional leadership and innovation on projects in the Greater Toronto Area.