

Acoustic Design for a Contemporary Justice Facility in Ontario

VISION

The Toronto Courthouse was envisioned as a consolidated justice facility bringing multiple court programmes together in a purpose-built environment designed to improve efficiency, accessibility, security, and public confidence.

PARTNERSHIP

Delivered through a public private partnership, the project united Infrastructure Ontario, Renzo Piano Building Workshop with NORR, EllisDon, and Valcoustics of Trinity Consultants Canada to integrate acoustics in a complex civic facility.

VALUE-ADD

Through comprehensive acoustic design services, Trinity Consultants Canada supported speech intelligibility, confidentiality, and noise control across courtrooms and public areas, contributing to an environment that upholds fairness, dignity, and clarity within judicial proceedings.

CLIENT

Infrastructure Ontario

ARCHITECT

Renzo Piano Building Workshop with NORR Architects & Engineers Limited

CONTRACTOR

EllisDon Design Build Inc.

ACOUSTICS

Trinity Consultants Canada

The Toronto Courthouse is a modern justice facility designed to unify multiple court functions within a single location in Ontario. Developed using a Design-Build-Finance-Maintain Public-Private Partnership structure, the project reflects a contemporary approach to civic infrastructure, combining architectural expression with operational performance.

Trinity Consultants Canada, through its Valcoustics team, provided acoustic consulting services throughout the courthouse. The scope addressed the specific performance requirements of courtrooms, public circulation areas, and support spaces, where clarity, privacy, and controlled sound environments are essential to the administration of justice.

VISION

The courthouse was conceived as a transparent and accessible civic institution that supports the efficient delivery of justice. Bringing multiple programmes together under one roof required careful planning to ensure secure circulation, clear wayfinding, and balanced public access. Acoustic performance was fundamental to this vision, as speech intelligibility, discretion, and freedom from distraction directly affect courtroom function and user experience. The project was also intended to serve as a benchmark for contemporary courthouse design in Canada.

PARTNERSHIP

The project was delivered through a Public-Private Partnership model led by Infrastructure Ontario. Renzo Piano Building Workshop, in association with NORR Architects & Engineers Limited, served as architect, with EllisDon Design Build Inc. as contractor. Trinity Consultants Canada, through Valcoustics, collaborated with the design and construction team to integrate acoustic strategies into courtrooms, public areas, and support spaces while aligning with security, architectural, and mechanical requirements. Coordination across disciplines was essential to ensure that acoustic measures supported both design intent and operational performance.

VALUE-ADD

Trinity Consultants Canada provided comprehensive acoustic design services tailored to the functional needs of a justice environment. Courtrooms were designed to achieve high levels of speech intelligibility and maintain confidential communication between parties. Public spaces were evaluated to manage reverberation and reduce disruptive background noise, supporting calm and orderly circulation. Support areas were designed with balanced sound isolation and acoustic comfort appropriate to their use.

By prioritizing clarity, privacy, and controlled acoustic conditions, Trinity Consultants Canada contributed to an environment that respects the seriousness of judicial proceedings and reinforces public confidence in the justice system. The project establishes a strong precedent for acoustic performance in civic and courthouse architecture across Canada.

ABOUT TRINITY CONSULTANTS

Trinity Consultants, a leading global environmental consulting firm, provides services and solutions in the EHS Regulatory Compliance, Built Environment, Life Sciences, and Water & Ecology markets. Founded in 1974, Trinity has the technical expertise, industry depth, and capabilities to help clients achieve their goals across the natural and built environments.