

# University of Toronto Faculty of Law

## Acoustical Design for a Landmark Legal Education Campus

### VISION

A world-class law school campus that balances heritage preservation with contemporary learning environments and the needs of a growing academic programme.

### PARTNERSHIP

Acoustical design services delivered in close collaboration with Hariri Pontarini Architects and B+H Architects across a complex, multi-component renewal project.

### VALUE-ADD

Spaces optimised for speech intelligibility, acoustic privacy, and acoustic comfort across a diverse programme—from intimate seminar halls to a 210-seat lecture theatre and moot courtroom.

#### CLIENT

*University of Toronto, Faculty of Law*

#### DESIGN ARCHITECT

*Hariri Pontarini Architects*

#### EXECUTIVE ARCHITECT

*B+H Architects*

#### ACOUSTICAL DESIGN

*Trinity Consultants Canada*

The University of Toronto Faculty of Law is among Canada's most distinguished legal institutions, and its expansion and renovation of the Jackman Law Building and Flavelle House marked a defining chapter in the school's history. The \$54-million project added 66,000 square feet of new space, consolidating previously dispersed departments under one roof while honouring the heritage character of the historic 1902 Flavelle House.

Trinity Consultants Canada was engaged to deliver a full range of acoustical engineering services across the new and renovated spaces. From the new classrooms and moot courtroom to the Bora Laskin Law Library and the conference facilities within Flavelle House, our team ensured that acoustic performance supported the school's teaching, research, and public functions.

## VISION

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The Faculty of Law had outgrown its existing facilities following years of significant programme growth. The expansion introduced a crescent-shaped classroom and office wing overlooking Queen's Park Crescent, a transformed Bora Laskin Law Library, and the Law Forum—a central gathering space designed to foster the informal connections that define life at a leading law school. Alongside these new elements, the project required sensitive updates to Flavelle House to accommodate modern legal education while preserving its historic character.

Acoustic performance was central to realising this vision. Classrooms, moot courtrooms, seminar halls, and a 210-seat lecture theatre each placed specific demands on sound behaviour—from speech clarity in instructional settings to sound isolation between adjacent spaces. The conference centre within Flavelle House added further complexity, requiring careful integration of acoustic treatments within a heritage interior. Throughout, the intent was to create environments where students, faculty, and visitors could engage fully with the learning experience.

## PARTNERSHIP

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Trinity Consultants Canada was retained by the architect team—Hariri Pontarini Architects as design architect and B+H Architects as executive architect—to provide comprehensive acoustical engineering services. Our team worked within the broader design and construction process, contributing acoustic input from early design through to project completion.

The project presented a range of acoustical challenges across its distinct components. Our team coordinated closely with the design and engineering teams to develop solutions that addressed both the new construction and the heritage renovation. The integration of noise and vibration control for mechanical systems, alongside acoustic treatment of teaching and gathering spaces, required an approach responsive to the unique character of each space within the larger project.

## VALUE-ADD

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Across the new Jackman Law Building, our team delivered acoustical design for a diverse range of spaces, including the 210-seat lecture hall and moot courtroom, seminar halls, the student commons lounge, and faculty and staff offices. Each space type required a distinct approach to reverberation control, background noise levels, and sound isolation. The result is an acoustic environment well-suited to the full range of academic activity that takes place across the facility.

The Bora Laskin Law Library renovation presented a particular opportunity. Transformed into a luminous, multi-storey pavilion connecting the law school to Philosopher's Walk, the library required acoustic treatment appropriate for a social and collaborative learning environment—balancing openness with the concentration demands of academic study. Our team developed recommendations that supported the architectural vision while ensuring the space functions effectively as both a study and gathering environment.

Within Flavelle House, our team addressed the acoustical requirements of the renovated conference centre, balancing technical performance against the constraints of a heritage building. Noise and vibration control for mechanical equipment was addressed across the project, ensuring that building systems did not compromise acoustic conditions in sensitive teaching and study spaces. The completed project delivers a well-functioning acoustic environment serving one of Canada's leading law schools.

### 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.