

Modernising Acoustics While Preserving an Historic Landmark

CHALLENGE

The client needed to convert a banquet hall and lobby area in a centuries-old historic location to perform to modern acoustical standards, without breaching historical protections on the building.

SOLUTION

The AWN team partnered with the local architect to upgrade the hall and lobby areas into a world-class conference venue and private meeting suite using a combination of proven acoustical science and creative re-imagining of the historic space.

RESULT

In less than a year, AWN delivered an acoustically excellent and controllable environment, converting the restricted areas into showcase spaces the client can now proudly use for years to come.

Working with one of the world's largest, oldest financial institutions, best known for its investment banking, asset management, private banking, and private wealth management services, AWN Consulting Ltd, a Trinity Consultants team, took on a high-profile architectural acoustics project in Paris, France in September 2016. The 17th century landmark structure, located in Paris' historic Place Vendome, was originally purchased by the client in 1916 to serve as its French headquarters.

Over the years, the space has been shared with the French Ministry of Justice, Hotel Ritz, Cartier, and IBM. In 1993, a full-scale renovation was performed to modernize the building, while preserving its historical grandeur.

Prior to the assignment, AWN had worked with the client on a project in Dublin, Ireland. Meanwhile, the local architect selected to perform the Paris work had also recently worked with AWN and brought them in to assist.

The contract was twofold: 1) convert the ground floor executive lounge into a private meeting room suitable for video conferences, and 2) convert the ground floor grand banquet hall from a trading "bullpen" into a conference venue suitable for large presentations and client events – all without breaching historical protections.