

# M&L Painting Ltd.

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## HOTEL GEORGIA

The project's scope comprised the restoration of the interior and exterior of the hotel. M&L Painting Ltd.'s contract consisted of:

- Painting
- Wallcovering
- Restoring of wood trim and paneling and finishing new wood to conform to the period style and finish
- Using a faux finish technique to match the gold and silver leaf original finish in lobbies and the Ballroom



The project presented two unique challenges:

### **Wood restoration and finishing**

Originally we felt we could sand and apply clear coats to the original paneling and trim and achieve a good match to new wood finishes. It became clear after many attempts that we were not going to accomplish the undistinguishable “restored/new” look in this way. Ultimately, using existing stained wood samples and historical pictures of the finishes, we achieved the desired result by using in a multi-step process:

1. Existing wood paneling and trim was stripped of many layers of varnish and stain
2. Both new and existing wood was treated with Cerca 1850 Shellac-based Wood Conditioner to penetrate the wood fibres to provide a uniform surface for staining
3. All wood was then hand-rubbed with CanLak TE2127 Rembrandt Brown custom-matched oil base wiping stain
4. Spray application of a shading stain ensured consistency between restored and new wood

5. Three coats of 60% pre-catalyzed solvent-based lacquer were applied to paneling and trim to finish the panels

To ensure a uniform colour and finish this work had to be done on site. Furthermore, as much as possible, any new lighting was installed prior to final finishing to avoid any perceived colour and finish inconsistencies due to light washing over the wood.

### **Gold and silver faux finishing**

Referring to historical photographs and existing gold and silver leaf in the hotel, we used metallic paints and a faux finish technique to make highlighted areas look like the original. The precision with which this was accomplished was more of an art than a science.

Our faux finishing and wood restoration workers, in their 60's and 70's, are true artisans who take pride in meeting the challenge of a restoration such as the Hotel Georgia project.



Our work speaks for itself and we are proud that M&L Painting was able to contribute to a continuing legacy as the Rosewood Hotel Georgia takes its place among the world's prized historic landmarks.