C3 Specialty Glazing Solutions was awarded the contract to install the structural glass system envisioned by Diamond Schmitt Architects in their transformation of the aging Primrose-Best Western hotel into a modern and vibrant downtown student residence. The original drab precast panels adorning the Carlton Street elevation were removed to accommodate an airy and bright student lounge area with clear views to the street below. This transformation was made possible through the use of a purpose-engineered structural glass system designed by C3 SGS. The structural glass seamlessly integrates with custom aluminum framed spandrel areas above and below.

RE-DEFINING PROJECT DELIVERY

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With the Parkside Student residence, the architect transformed an old hotel to a modern student space. While some elevations of the ‘brutalist’ style exterior architecture were left intact, the re-design incorporated light airy student lounge areas with floor to ceiling glass. Uninterrupted views are possible with the use of structural glass fins to provide the lateral stability and support of the glass system sufficient to withstand wind loads. In addition to contributing to the aesthetics, unique fritted patterns were incorporated on the glass to deter birds as recommended by Toronto’s “Bird-Friendly Development Guidelines”.

To maintain the architect’s design intent within a reasonable budget, C3 SGS presented options that could be locally procured thus allowing for competitive pricing. By adjusting panel sizes, the optimal configuration was arrived at to maximize views while ensuring that production waste and thus material costs were minimized.

The project had a number of construction challenges:
1. Tight project schedule to open residence for start of new semester.
2. Limited space for material staging and equipment maneuverability on a very high traffic downtown street.
3. Safely handling of large glass panels.

The C3 SGS team worked to complete this installation on schedule and within budget.

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