



BRAMPTON GOLF COURSE

When you're on the board of directors and have 450 members to answer to, overseeing a major renovation paid for with members' dollars can be a challenge. Giving a contractor a "drop-dead deadline" on a project just ups the stress.

But Brampton Golf Club board member Joanne Tawse says she was pleasantly surprised with the process because they hired the right person for the job.

Joanne, a member since 1999, was on the

revitalization committee that oversaw this, the club's first major renovation. The club was established in 1921 as a nine-hole course but in 1963 evolved into an 18-hole championship course.

When they were interviewing contractors, Joanne thought of Amedeo, who had renovated a friend's house, and that of a friend of a friend.

"I knew he did good work and was reasonably priced," she says.



GETS CLUBHOUSE RENO

At that time, she didn't know Barbini Design Build has many divisions, including commercial and hospitality. "Once we inquired, Amedeo sent a portfolio. He was very keen on the job. It wasn't a huge dollar figure. We worked with a shoestring budget. But he said he could do what we wanted and we'd get a great product for the budget," she says. "And everybody liked him."

Next it was interior designer Vanja Stepanek's

turn. She worked with Joanne and the revitalization committee to come up with sketches. From that point on, Joanne worked with Amedeo and Vanja. "I liked working with both of them from the very beginning. They made my life easier."

The project included gutting the "old school" clubhouse, which had lots of dark wood, dark floor tiles and green leather furniture. "The space was tired and in need of a renovation," she says.



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So it was out with the dark colours and wood, and in with fresh, bright, airy spaces and a palette of grey, black and white, with a splash of vibrant blue for a pop of colour.

An existing wall was modified and widened and dark grey columns were added to either side.

A special textured porcelain from Spain covers the rest of the wall, creating a dramatic background for the updated Brampton Golf Course logo. The wall is a focal point that offers an opportunity for more branding, Joanne says.

Prior to the renovation, the lobby was a confusing space. “When you walked into the club, you didn’t know where to go for information,” says Amedeo.

A reception nook was created. The flexible space acts as a greeting place for meetings and corporate and private events. The lobby offers break out space for meetings, with seating areas with couches and chairs and areas for quiet conversation, all with walls of glass overlooking the golf course.

A hallway leads to the “crush” area, where the bar is located. The old bar was a big wooden structure reminiscent of the one on the television show Cheers. Once it was removed, the space was opened up. The new bar was designed to function like a kitchen island – a hub that people can gather around, she says.

Amedeo and Vanja created the flexible design, which allows the bar to be used as a buffet table during large member functions. They also figured out a way to accommodate all of the appliances and the other workings of a high-end bar that the clubhouse food and beverage manager requested.

A trophy display case was moved from its original location near the front door to the bar. Glass cases flank a counter, pendant lights and vibrant blue bar stools.

The dining room was also gutted and includes new carpet. The same bright, contemporary-yet-comfortable furniture is used throughout the main floor. When it was time to talk furniture, Joanne says, “I said to Vanja, here’s our furniture budget. She didn’t laugh at me. She made it work. It was fantastic working with her.”

Off the dining room, the Fireside Room provides private dining/meeting space. Floor-to-ceiling double wood sliding doors were added so the space can be closed for privacy or left open to accommodate overflow from the dining room.





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At first, the committee opted to leave two posts in the room, but later decided that they should be removed. Joanne says Barbini's team was quick to respond and the additional work didn't cause a delay.

"I often said to Amedeo, 'where do you find your people?' We all got along famously. There were no complaints and the construction site was spotless," she says. Their professionalism gave the members a lot of confidence that the job would be done right.

A major consideration with the club's redesign was how it could attract more revenue by creating more desirable and rentable spaces, as well as be a more current space for club members to enjoy today's environment, Amedeo says. "I've heard from members that more people are coming to the dining room and the club in general. You have to keep the space fresh because people don't want to go there if it doesn't make them feel good.

"It's important to keep revenue up. It's a time of transformation for golf courses, as owners decide to keep their properties or sell to a developer for land. The right renovations can keep facilities vibrant and inviting, so members consider the club a destination for events, relaxing and spending time with friends and colleagues, whether they're on or off the golf course," he says.

The renovation of the Brampton Golf Club, a private, non-equity club, began in December 2017 and was completed in time for the May 1, 2018 start of the golf season. "We had no give on the deadline. May 1 was the drop-dead deadline and we stressed that it's non negotiable," Joanne says.

Amedeo delivered on time, and would have been on budget had the committee not made changes/additions (such as removing the posts in the banquet room and adding a sound system) as the job went along.

"The whole process was fantastically easy. There was no stress and no drama," Joanne says.

She says any project has many layers, and having a company that offered one-stop shopping was a bonus. Rather than having to deal with different trades, the Barbini team took care of everything.

"I loved working with all of the people. The trades made it an amazingly pleasant experience. It was even better when the board members saw it. You can't please everyone, but we almost did. Everyone loves it. We never dreamed it would turn out like this."

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