

**SAMPLE BUILDING AWARDS  
SUBMISSION FROM  
ACME CONSTRUCTION**  
500-750 words  
Up to 5 photos and captions can be used.

**Company:** ACME CONSTRUCTION

**Project:** Joe's Coffee Bar

**Category:** Commercial

**Less than \$750,000**

**Location:** Downtown Cambridge, 8,000 sq ft coffee bar

### ***Customer/Trade Satisfaction***

This is where you insert 3 letters of commendation/reference in relation to the project being submitted. One must be from the owner/financier. The other two may be drawn from a consultant, trades, suppliers or manufacturers. A complete list of sub contractors and their full contact information must be submitted.

### ***Project Overview***

Located in the heart of old downtown Cambridge, **Joe's Coffee Bar** was designed to suit the Heritage-style buildings adjacent to it – but with a modern flare. Whereas riverbed limestone was liberally used to tie in with the city block architecture, it was juxtaposed with broad expanses of non-glare bronzed glass walls allowing patrons to see out into the street without feeling as though they were in a fishbowl. Deep, custom-designed retractable awnings provided shade for both the outdoor patio and keeping the interior cooler. To accommodate the heavy student crowd from the nearby School of Architecture, a special covered bicycle corral was built in the parking lot – reminiscent of the days when horse and buggy were the mode of transportation.

*See attached letters of reference*

The interior was a mix of booths and freestanding tables – with clientele ordering coffee and light lunches/snacks from the customer service counter, the emphasis was on durability, safety (non slip tiling) and sanitation. Corian countertops, seamless plastic laminate surfaces and heavy-duty stainless steel sinks and backsplashes ensure it is easy to keep clean. *Frank's Electrical* did an outstanding job of some last minute electrical redesign when it was discovered a larger refrigeration unit would be required, which meant a new overhead lighting design and rearrangement of a bank of coffee and grinding machines. When crucial custom laminate was delayed due to Hurricane Katrina, *Smith's Millwork* stepped up to the plate, found a suitable replacement and made up the shortfall of time by working through the weekend.

### ***Quality of Workmanship/Innovation***

Working as a team was essential on this job as the footprint of the construction site was small, the surrounding area commercially active and the logistics involved in getting trades in and out on schedule. The trades took obvious pride in their work and met their schedule commitments at all times. The Acme intranet site assisted in scheduling.

*Ted's Tiling* did an outstanding job of laying an intricate tile mosaic depicting the client's logo in the centre of the restaurant. With no room for error, due to an extremely tight deadline, Ted's crew accomplished a very complex tile job in less time than allotted.

*Phil's Fixtures*, when faced with two damaged booth units, did a remarkable onsite repair that is undetectable and saved the owner three days in lost time to replace the custom units.

### ***GVCA Loyalty & Qualification***

On this project, we used three GVCA members. *Ted's Tiling, Jane's Painting and Bob's Drywall*. Each was highly qualified and professional. We had some leeway on which sub we could use based on a pre-approved list. We generally stay away from the lowest bidder unless we have established a proven working relationship with them on previous jobs. This ensures for a smoother project flow and any problems that arise (and they always do) are resolved more efficiently and effectively.

### ***Project Management***

As it was a downtown location, in the heart of a busy commercial district, delivery of materials had to be coordinated with military-like skill. Scheduled deliveries were between 6-7 a.m., with designated delivery spots on the site and nearby shop owners were given a nightly update in the form of a printed one-page flyer on what construction activities would be taking place the following day. Because it was necessary to install hoarding, adjacent businesses were keen on knowing the length and breadth of the construction activities – daily communication helped. (Local high school art students were commissioned to paint the hoarding in lively colours.) On the two mornings (6:30-7:30 am) the water main was shut down, ACME Construction delivered a case of bottled water to each affected shop owner.

Project management also included instituting a careful construction waste management procedure due to the limited on-site space. *Mary's Masonry* contributed to the cleanliness and overall safety of the site by using only premixed mortar and grout in silos. ACME Construction also uses an company intranet site where the authorized subs can log onto every day to see that day's change orders and any project updates. The construction trailer offers subs a PC connected to wireless Internet for updating purposes. All change orders and related correspondence was immediately inserted in database, which dramatically reduces disputes and/or on site errors. CDCC documents were used throughout the project.

### ***Safety***

Safety is always an issue, especially in a busy commercial active city block. Besides the hoarding and required safety regulations, **ACME Construction** has a company culture of behavior-based safety awareness. While all of our crews and subs follow Ministry guidelines, we also take time out to acknowledge everyday safe work practices in our morning tailgate meetings. (Foreman hands out coffee coupons to those he witnessed working safely). It is a small thing but shows our crews we notice safe work behavior at all times. This is especially important for any apprentices on the job site to see that safety is in the little things – like correct lifting – as in the big things, like onsite heavy equipment operation. There were no lost time accidents in approx. 10,000 man-hours of labor.