

Aria Group Architects, Inc.

1997

It has been nine years since Jim, Walt, Joe Vajda and Kathy formed Aria Group Architects, Inc. This month we started our 500th project and have grown to 25 talented, hardworking and dedicated men and women. We are very proud of the projects we have designed and the contributions we have made to our clients' success.

We appreciate the trust and confidence placed upon us by our clients. We particularly want to thank all the other members of the team needed to bring the projects to reality - contractor, subcontractors, consultants and vendors.

Have a healthy, happy and joyous holiday season.

Jim, Walt, Kathy, Joe Vajda, Tom, John Tweedy, Pam, Cecelia, Frank, Lois, Dan, Grace, Dave, Kitty, Joe Burnell, Janet, Chris, John Birazzi, John Moorhead, Andy, Ed, Paula, MacKenzie, Rich & Brian.

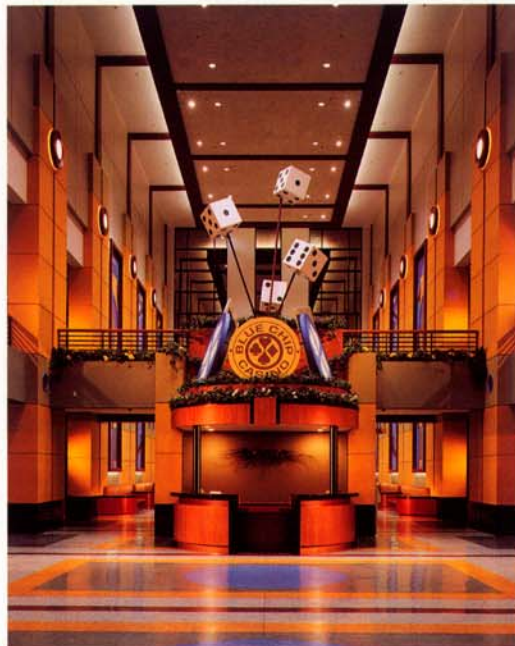
BLUE CHIP CASINO AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Michigan City, Indiana

August saw the opening of the Blue Chip Casino in Michigan City, Indiana. The project consisted of redeveloping 12 acres of abandoned residential blocks and building a new 6 acre marina for the city. Our design of the docking pavilion consists of a grand atrium space, multiple food and beverage experiences, and a second floor ballroom and conference facility.

The quality of the project stands out among other Indiana casino developments. We congratulate Blue Chip for seeing their inspiring

vision come true and applaud Walsh Construction for their commitment to building quality and design, despite many complex development issues and a very aggressive construction schedule.



Photos by: Hedrich Blessing



BLUE CHIP CASINO



ATRIUM

Serving as a direct link to boarding the casino boat, the 50 foot high atrium bisects the pavilion providing access to the food and beverage amenities. Through the use of glass terrazzo floors, colorful articulated wall forms and oak clad millwork, the atrium is the grand first impression the patrons experience upon entering the building. We designed the jumping dice sculpture, six 25 foot high "digital" murals and special signs to coordinate closely with the architecture of the building.



BRIO RESTAURANT

Created to provide a complete departure from the art deco style of most of the docking pavilion, this theme restaurant was designed to capture the feeling of a coastal Italian eatery. This space provides comfortable dining seating for 80 people, and a 15 seat bar and food counter surrounding an open wood burning oven. Imported tiled floors and a photo mural enhance this comfortable dining experience.



BLUE CHIP BUFFET

This 280 seat dining experience reflects a Miami deco style. The servery contains various food stations including a salad bar, dessert display and fresh carved meats. Finished in terrazzo, black granite and ceramic tile, this space exemplifies the clean colorful image of art deco.



VENTURA LOUNGE

This venue was designed with an urban deco slant, using dark woods and classic colors. We designed the sunburst murals and wall graphics that relate to a bar detailed in multi-colored woods and black granite. In addition, raised booths, small cocktail tables and a small stage platform combine to make the lounge a more intimate yet exciting amenity to the docking pavilion.

BROOKFIELD ZOO SOUTH AMERICAN MARKETPLACE



This past spring, Brookfield Zoo celebrated its grand opening of the new “Living Coast” exhibit and our design for the “South American Marketplace.” Zoo patrons can now experience the eco system of South American coastal regions and, upon exiting the exhibit, be immersed in the cultural excitement of the new enterprise facility. Our new building design includes a food court, gift shop and restroom facility at ground level and “Bocaditos” on the second floor.



BOCADITOS

The challenge in designing this 180 seat, full service, tapas style restaurant was that the entire space had to be easily converted into functional classrooms for use by the education department. Dividing walls, a/v equipment and educational materials are concealed behind wall panels when the space is used for dining. By day, Bocaditos serves up South American appetizers and at night, a banquet for 250 people can be served out of the adjoining 2nd floor kitchen.



We had a lot of fun working with bamboo, sisal, rock and rope to create the unusual yet functional displays for merchandising these beautiful objects from various South American cultures. We let the color and texture of the merchandise, combine with the creative talents of the Zoo's retail staff, bring out the lush, intricately detailed, retail experience that captures the feeling of a “South American Market Place.”

Everything from hot dogs to authentic Peruvian skewered meats can be found in the servery. In response to the Zoo's plan to offer a wide range of food choices for their guests, we designed the servery utilizing the colors, textures, and art of Peru.





Photo by: Steinkamp/Ballogg

HEAVEN ON SEVEN

on Rush

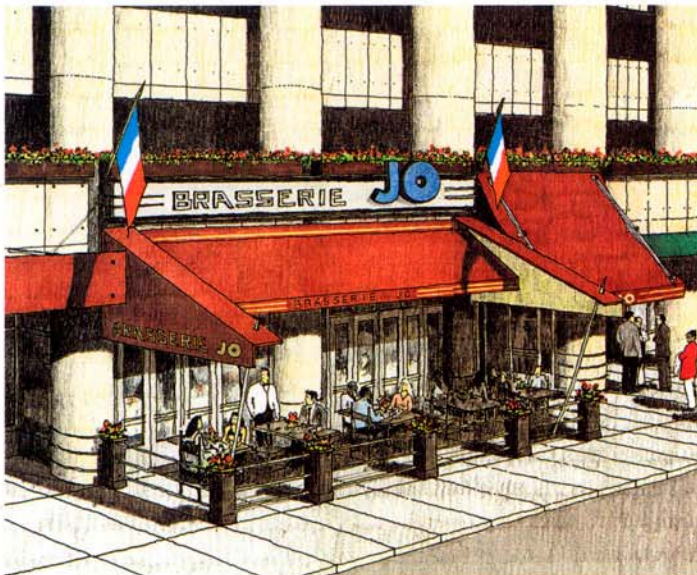
Jim and George Bannos teamed up with Rich Melman and Bob Vick to bring their authentic New Orleans style cuisine to 600 N. Michigan. Crown Construction completed the restaurant in April and it has been packed since.

PAPAGUS

We have evolved and adapted Lettuce Entertain You Enterprise's successful River North concept to suburban Oak Brook. Crown Construction worked with us to convert the old El Torito space into this 234 seat Greek taverna. Jim's son, Jason provided the log beams and stick ceiling.



Photo by: Steinkamp/Ballogg



Rendering by: John Moorhead

BRASSIERE JO

Boston

The Colonnade Hotel is partnering with Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises Inc. to bring Chef Joho's cuisine to the Back Bay area of Boston. Shawmut Construction began work in December with an April 1998 projected opening.



Rendering by: Frank Cavanaugh

ZAO ISLAND

Zao Island was dreamed up by Don Wright as a quality dining experience combined with a fantasy themed, interactive environment family entertainment center. We are working with Don in analyzing potential sites for this innovative new fun concept.



Photos by: Steinkamp/Ballogg

56 WEST

Howard Draft and Nick Pritzker gave us the opportunity to create a "New York" like nightclub in the bowels of the Boyce Building at Illinois and Dearborn. Celebrities such as Emmy Lou Harris, Lyle Lovett, Jackie Mason, Gene Siskel and Kathy Matea have already discovered this very unique night spot.

Other 1997-98 Projects

Brinker International

Corner Bakery
Hinsdale, IL
Out to bid

Maggiano's
Denver, CO
Preliminary Design

Maggiano's
Washington, DC
Working Drawings

Bloomington Townhomes
Chicago, IL
1st phase construction complete
early 1998.
Crown Construction

Blueplate Catering Office Remodel
Chicago, IL
Occupancy October 1997
Tripani Construction

Burhop Fisheries
Chicago, IL
Completed December 1997.
The Dettmers Company

California Pizza Kitchens
Paramus, New Jersey
Opened Spring 1997
Custom Commercial Contractors

Boston Prudential Center
Remodel
Opened February 1997
Shawmut Construction

Southfield, Michigan
Out to bid December 1997

Chicago Hilton & Towers/Pavilion
Restaurant Rehab
Chicago, IL
Out to bid January 1998

Deerfield Bakery Remodel
Buffalo Grove, IL
Out to bid December 1997

Fog City Diner
Chicago, IL
Out to bid December 1997

Grounds To Brew
Chicago, IL
Thorndale Construction
Completed December 1997

Gymnastics Club
Downers Grove, IL
Opened September 1997
P.J. Fazio



Rendering by John Moorhead

THE BIG BOWL/WILDFIRE

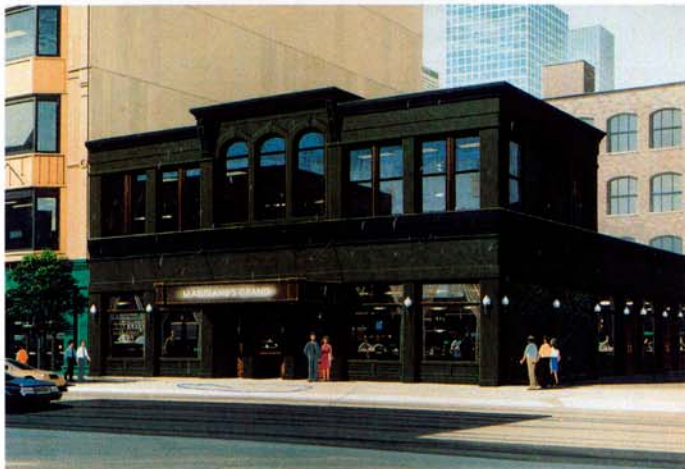
The Village of Lincolnshire's definitive design criteria strongly influenced the design of Lettuce Entertain You Inc.'s first freestanding Big Bowl and Wildfire restaurants. Crown Construction broke ground on Big Bowl in November with Wildfires start projected for spring 1998.

MAGGIANO'S CORNER BAKERY

After taking Maggiano's and Corner Bakery national, Mark Tormey and Brinker International decided to expand the original Clark and Grand restaurant with a new 2 story, 10,500 sq. ft. banquet facility.



Photo by: Steinkamp/Ballogg



Rendering by Prelim

This design continues the "period" exterior look with a more sophisticated "clubby" interior. Crown Construction anticipates a February 1998 opening. Crown also built the Schaumburg Maggiano's which has been open since June.

RHAPSODY RESTAURANT

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra's new facility opened to rave reviews this fall along with its new Rhapsody Restaurant. We needed to expand the designated first floor space with a parisian inspired "Building in the Park" design which features chef Steve Chiappetti's world class cuisine.



food life

After four years we returned to food life, Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises Inc.'s unique food experience in Water Tower Place to develop two new kiosks (Wraps and Laser Noodles) plus renovate the Pasta kiosk.



Photos by: Steinkamp/Ballogg

Jenny's Restaurant
Union Pier, MI
Start construction
December 1997

Koo Koo Roo
Queens, New York
Open Spring 1997

Koo Koo Roo Restaurant
with Color Me Mine Retail
Leesburg Pike, VA
Herman Stewart Construction

Westfield, New Jersey
Both Opened Spring 1997

Restaurant below
Bigsby & Kruthers
Chicago, IL
Design Development

Restaurant at 713 N. Wells
Chicago, IL
Preliminary Design

Nonno Pino's Restaurant
Chicago, IL
Opened November 1997

Potbelly Restaurants
Franklin St., Chicago, IL
Thorndale Construction
Opened June 1997

State & Lake, Chicago, IL
Preliminary Design

Shaw's Banquet Facility
Chicago, IL
Preliminary Design

Station Break - Viacom Store
Chicago, IL
Capital Construction

Torpedo Joe's (Old Navy Store)
Chicago, IL
Out to bid December 1997

420 North Wabash Exterior
Chicago, IL
Design Studies

food life Kiosk Remodel
Laser Noodles
Wraps
Pasta
Chicago, IL
Completed Summer 1997



Rendering by Frank Caranough

GOODMAN THEATRE RETAIL ANNEX

We are currently being considered by Friedman Properties as the architects for a 70,000 sq. ft., 5 story restaurant & retail building at the corner of Dearborn and Randolph in downtown Chicago. The building will be an annex to the future home of the new Goodman Theatre.

Once the site of Louis Sullivan's Garrick Theater, the project will be the cornerstone to an ambitious plan by the city of Chicago to revitalize the north loop theater district. After extensive discussions with city departments, Goodman, and other interested parties, we have proposed a design that responds to the future theater building, while reinterpreting, in a progressive way, the forms and textures of the historic "Chicago School" vocabulary.

We would like to welcome the following new additions to our firm

Ed Gonzalez joined us in January and received his degree from Southern Illinois University in 1990.

Paula Schulze had worked with us part time in the past and joined us full time in April. Paula specializes in interior design, furniture and visual merchandising.

MacKenzie Stanley received her B.A. in architecture from University of Illinois, Champaign in June 1996 and joined us the next week.



Richard Fost received his B.A. in architecture from Oklahoma State University in 1991. He worked at Lohan Associates and Booth/Hansen prior to joining Aria in September.

Brian Kowert has a B.A. in architecture from Iowa State in 1991. He worked for Teng Associates prior to joining us in December.

We were blessed with two new baby boys and one new girl this year. **Walt and Jill Pancewicz's** third daughter, Victoria, **Grace and Scott Rappé's** first son Matthew, and **Kitty and Mike Carlson's** first son Colin.

Steve Rhodes a principal for over five years left Aria Group this year to pursue other interests. We all wish him the best of luck.



Aria Group Architects, Inc.

1100 West Lake Street Oak Park, Illinois 60301 Telephone 708.445.8400 FAX 708.445.1788