

Hyatt Hotels

2006

Our company continues to grow and evolve thanks to the loyalty and support of our clients, consultants and contractors.

We are fortunate to have great projects and to have talented, caring architects, designers and interns join our firm.

Since our last newsletter we have expanded our office two times and are up to a total staff of 60. Pam Harris joined Dan, Dave and Chris as our newest associate.

This past year we have developed new concepts and designed new prototypes for existing established operators. We have been very busy, but have found time to have fun. Our entire staff spent 4 days in Puerto Vallarta and we have been able to celebrate quite a few restaurant openings.

Thank you for your help in creating interesting, fun, beautiful and successful projects.

Jim, Kathy, Walt, Joe, Tom, Frank, Pam H. Lois, Dan, Dave N., Chris D., Paula, Jamie, Mark, Pam G., Ronnie, Arturo, Jason, Maria, Dennis, David R., Debbie, Stacy, Beth, Neal, Susan, Ryan P., Darrell, Kenta, Nazario, Gabriela, Lillian, Chris Bischof, Dori, Chris Bissell, Renea, Leslie, Jennifer, James, Victor, Nicole, Sarah, Eric, Kate W., Iliamar, Chris H., Tracy M., Brian, Olivia, Joe J., Chris J., Clair Chris Caron, Tracy, Leroy, Chris Curran, Ryan C., Kate R., and Lisa

This year we were fortunate to work with one of the premier Hotel Groups in the world – Hyatt.

Jim Abrahamson of Hyatt Hotels asked Edwin Rios and our office to develop a home away from home atmosphere for the new Hyatt Place concept. We designed the 1st floor lobby “great room”, “den,” “kitchen”, and “dining room” for the conversion of Amerisuites and the new ground up prototype. This innovative, warm, inviting concept has been well received by travelers around the country. Besides the prototype design we completed the first three properties in Lombard, Illinois and Atlanta, Georgia. For Jim Sileno, the owner and operator of two Amerisuites in Milwaukee, we designed the new first floor areas, a pool addition, new porte cochere and remodeled the façade.

In a completely unrelated project we worked with George Vizer and his team of the Hyatt McCormick Place to remodel and reconcept their existing restaurant and lounge. For an extremely tight budget and a practically impossible time frame we provided a total new design and image including a new quick casual café, tapas bar, dining area, indoor patio, buffet and lounge. Crown Construction was the contractor.



Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery

LOMBARD, ILLINOIS



Photography: Ballogg Photography

Aria Group was able to develop a design program for Rock Bottom which focused on their core strengths and company philosophy. In addition, we scaled back the size of their store so that it would be more adaptable to pad sites throughout the country. Aria successfully eliminated the eclectic elements in previous stores that didn't contribute to the distinct trade dress of the client's stores. The final design is successful in maintaining a human scale at the exterior for such a large size restaurant. All this has created a strong, cohesive identity which fits hand-in-hand with their company identity.



Photography: Ballogg Photography

Kona Grill

OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS

Aria Group's 8 year relationship with Kona Grill grew stronger as stores were opened in Dallas, Houston & Austin, TX, Naples, FL, Troy, MI, and two locations in Illinois; (Lincolnshire & Oak Brook). Oak Brook deviated slightly from a typical Kona Grill as the exterior red stucco was replaced with warm red-toned masonry to compliment the development in which it is located. Inside, the warm fabrics, rich blue walls complimented by tan curved soffits & the 2000 gallon salt water aquarium maintain the Kona Grill identity. Set for the coming year are Baton Rouge, LA, Stamford, CT, Gilbert, AZ and West Palm Beach, FL.



Rendering by Frank Casanough

Pinstripes

NORTHBROOK, ILLINOIS

Aria Group was asked to design a unique bowling, bocce and bistro venue that will provide the surrounding North Shore communities with a distinctive entertainment and dining experience. This 45,000 sq. ft. indoor/outdoor facility includes 18 bowling lanes; 6 bocce courts; an exceptional Italian/American bistro and wine cellar; event/party rooms for 20-250; and an outdoor patio and fireplace.

Blue Chip Hotel and Casino

MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA

Photography: Ballage Photography



In 1996 we designed the 40 acre Blue Chip Casino development that included a new waterway for the gaming vessel, an eight story, 200 room resort hotel and an 87,000 SF docking pavilion. In 2006, Boyd Gaming expanded the pavilion and built a new gaming vessel. Aria Group was asked to re-visit the interior venues of the docking pavilion. These new projects included a new buffet restaurant, deli restaurant, nightclub, coffee kiosk and a fine dining restaurant called William B's that we featured in the 2005 newsletter. We are currently working on a new VIP area and casino bar at Blue Chip.



Rosemont Walk Master Plan

ROSEMONT, ILLINOIS

Aria Group was asked by the Village of Rosemont and Sierra Realty Advisors to develop an entertainment district master plan for the area around and including the proposed casino site. The plan incorporates the existing infrastructure put in place for the casino project with a new program of hotels, office space and entertainment venues. The plan was also expanded south to incorporate the land surrounding the Rosemont Theatre. When complete, the plan will add over 1,000 hotel rooms to the area which currently provides over 5,600 rooms. In addition, a multiplex movie theater is located on the north site and a 400,000 SF water park resort hotel is planned to anchor the south site. Aria Group has also designed into the plan mixed-use office, retail and restaurant opportunities. All the amenities in the plan will be held together with complimentary street and walkway lighting and a continued tradition of lush Rosemont landscaping.



California Pizza Kitchen

FOXWOODS CASINO, MASHANTUCKET, CONNECTICUT



Photography: AG Photography



Aria Group was retained in 2003 to update California Pizza Kitchen's design concept. The goal was to create a design prototype that was warmer, used natural materials and promoted their exciting dinner menu. As a result, CPK's distinctive pizza, pastas, salads and soups are now being served in a new environment of cherry and walnut veneered woods, colorful fabrics, limestone floors and stone feature walls. Stores opened in the last year include Foxwoods Casino [pictured], Atlas Park, NY; Bayshore, WI; Boulder, CO; Coconut Pt. & Coral Gables, FL; Domain, TX; Riverchase, AL; San Luis Obispo & Northridge, CA; Hunt Valley, MD; Short Hills, NJ; Honolulu, HI.

LA Food Show

Continuing our relationship with California Pizza Kitchen, we have developed a prototype for their newest concept, LA Food Show. This will be their second store and will be located in Beverly Hills, California, just up the street from the first CPK. The look is inviting and warm, yet dramatic with an edge and housed in an existing bow string truss building. The expected opening is at the end of 2007.



Interior Rendering: Renea Reichenbach



Exterior Rendering: Aria Group Architects

Other 2006 Projects

REPUBLIC RESTAURANT

Restaurant, Bar and Sushi
Crown Construction
Opened April 2007

P.J. CLARKES

Restaurant/Bar
Opens June 2007

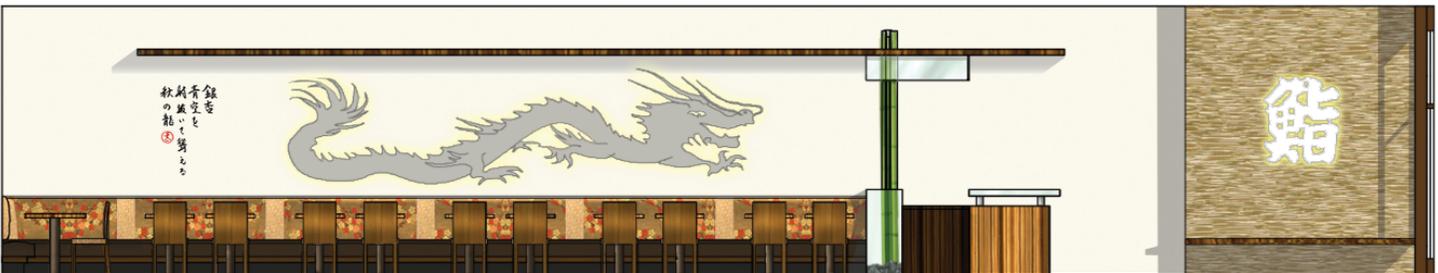
THE ESPLANADE

Mixed use Lifestyle Center
United Construction
Services, LTD.
First Phase Opening Fall 2007

Sushi House

OAK PARK, ILLINOIS

Sushi House owners Bob and Diana Johnson wanted us to bring their successful concept to Oak Park with a new, thoroughly updated design. We worked on developing a balance between contemporary and traditional Japanese design principles, maintaining its purist values while incorporating the needed warmth of an inviting restaurant. The result is an innovative two-story space, 5,000 s.f. restaurant with a sushi bar and dining on the main floor; a modern, sleek lounge downstairs; and a renovated existing apartment on the second floor. The use of natural materials from easily renewable sources was also an important factor in this project, such as bamboo plywood and flooring, certified woods, low-VOC wall coverings and paints, high-recycled content carpeting and demo-recall programs. The restaurant will open in August and the Contractor is Thorndale Construction.



Renderings: Kenta Bacas Hosaka

French Country Suites Hotel Study

Scott Johnsen asked us to develop a design for a 160 room, 166,000 SF Hotel in Indiana. The hotel was designed in a H-shaped plan with the center of the building as a focal point for the Entry Lobby and Indoor/Outdoor pool. Created to be a true destination resort, the plan includes meeting rooms, spa, exercise room, gift shop and a full service restaurant. Every room was designed as a suite and the center top floors include large bridal suites with roof terraces.

Lush landscaping surrounds the hotel and creates exterior courts and private terraces at the ground level. A large pond envelops a restaurant that will include an outdoor café and covered deck. The intent of the exterior design was to create a French Country themed environment.



LEMONT VILLAGE

Shopping Center
Gleason, C.E. Constructors, Inc.
Opening Fall 2007

LEYE SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Oak Brook
Crown Construction
Opening fall 2007

STRIPBURGER, LAS VEGAS

Focus One Construction
Opening Summer 2007

LAMADIA RESTAURANT

Chicago
Crown Construction
Opening Aug/Sept. 2007

BROOKFIELD ZOO

North and South Gate Remodels
Crown Construction

Wildfire

ATLANTA, GEORGIA



Photography: Ballogg Photography

Rich Melman asked us to design a new, more contemporary, styled version of this very successful concept for his first restaurant in Atlanta. Lightly stained rift sawn oak, minimalistic detailing, lighter fabrics and granite stone are a few of the elements in this evolution of the concept. We are currently working on a new Wildfire in Tyson Corner, Virginia. Crown Construction will open this restaurant in the fall of 2007.

Tavern at the Park

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Peter and Donny de Castro came to Aria Group with an exciting new restaurant opportunity in downtown Chicago. Aria has designed a new two story classic "American fare" restaurant and bar overlooking Millennium Park. An open air roof terrace with 100 seats has also been designed and will be introduced to the public in 2008. Leopardo Construction is the General Contractor.



Rendering By: Frank Casanough



Rendering By: Frank Casanough

BIAGGI'S RESTAURANT

Ridgeland, Mississippi
Lorient Construction
Opening Fall 2007

GO ROMA – RESTAURANTS

Bolingbrook, Merrillville,
Lincolnshire, Oak Brook
Thorndale Construction

NEW RESTAURANT AT DELTA DOWNS RACETRACK AND CASINO

Opening Fall 2007

FOOD DANCE RESTAURANT

Kalamazoo, Michigan
Miller-Davis Construction
Opening June 2007

P. F. Chang's China Bistro

SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS



Photography: Ballig Photography



Located in Woodfield Mall, the space was previously occupied by another restaurant. However, all of the interior build-out was demolished. The exterior and mall facades were completely transformed to reflect the PF Chang's identity. A portion of the existing building was removed to make way for an exterior patio, and new stone piers and fabric awnings were added to this area. These columns serve as a screening element between the entry and dining areas, and through them, the mural can be seen as you enter the space. Other stores that opened in 2006 include Greensboro, SC, Cumberland, GA, Baltimore, MD, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Ballston, VA, and Middleton, WI.

Jimmy's on K-Street

WASHINGTON D.C.

Aria continues to build its relationship with McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant. Aria's latest store completed in Washington D.C. is an 8,000 square foot restaurant within the context of a modern office building.

This space has an urban contemporary style complemented by custom glass light fixtures and panels designed and fabricated by Chuck Franklin Glass Studio of Portland. Manion Company provided richly detailed Honduran mahogany millwork topped off by a custom freestanding bar.

Other McCormick & Schmick's projects that opened this year were in Pittsburgh, PA, Easton, Ohio, Kansas City, MO, Boca Raton, FL, Cincinnati, Ohio and Chicago, Illinois.



Photography: Ballig Photography

DITKA'S RESTAURANT

Kern Konstruction
Opening June 2007

NORDSTROM CAFÉ AND E-BAR, MICHIGAN

Restaurant/ Coffee Bar
W.E. O'Neil
Opening Spring 2008

NORDSTROM E-BAR, OAK BROOK

Coffee Bar
Lorient Construction
Opening Spring 2007

ASAP, CALIFORNIA

Fast Food Casual
Annino Construction
Opened 2006

Pig Parade

OAK PARK, ILLINOIS

Renea, Sarah, Victor and Jason contributed their talents by decorating this little piggy in the "Pig Parade of Oak Park". Designed by Renea, their imaginative creation called "Swine Dining" was an interpretive piece depicting one of Aria's specialty project types. All the creations were auctioned off with the proceeds going to the Hephzibah Children's Association and The Oak Park Area Arts Council.



Photo: Leslie Good

Aria Mexico Trip

PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO



Photo: Brian Zichinski



Photo: Gabbly Alonso

Capping off traditional social events of holiday parties and our Thanksgiving Pot Luck was a special Aria Group trip to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Our group of over 60 staff, family and friends enjoyed a sun filled, four day break at the beautiful Barcelo La Jolla de Mismaloya Resort. Nestled in the hills against a wonderful beachfront cove, the resort was a perfect place for swimming, sunning, late-night cantina cocktails and moon lit poker by the pool. The entire trip was a great success!



LOOK FOR OUR NEW WEB SITE LAUNCHING IN JUNE OF 2007!

Aria Personals

SARAH McCAW

Sarah received her bachelor degree from Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Studio Art in 2003. She began working part-time at Aria Group in January of 2006. She is currently working towards her master's degree in Interior Architecture at Columbia College in Chicago.

ERIC BRAHAR

Eric received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Architectural Studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1997. Before joining Aria Group, Eric worked with Vasilko Architects in Chicago.

KATE WIEGERS

Kate received her Bachelor of Arts in Interior Design with a minor in photography from Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids Michigan. Prior to joining Aria Group, she worked with Wright Heerema Architects.

LIAMAR ISAAC

Iliamar graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago in May of 1999 with a Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies. Before she joined Aria Group, she worked with Frega Associates in Chicago.

CHRIS HAMER

Chris worked with Aria Group while attending the University of Illinois at Chicago. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies in 2000 and then his Masters of Architecture in 2006. Prior to joining Aria Group, Chris worked at Holabird & Root.

TRACEY MACMURCHY

Tracey joined Aria Group in May working part time while she completes her Masters of Architecture at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Prior to joining Aria Group, Tracey received her Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies from UIC and worked with Rubloff Development in Rockford, Illinois.

BRIAN ZIELINSKI

Brian received a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture in 2004 and a Master of Architecture in 2006, both from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Before joining Aria Group in June, he worked with DeStefano & Partners.

OLIVIA ZARANTI

Olivia studied Liberal Arts at the University of Kansas prior to attending Columbia College in Chicago. She graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Architecture. Olivia joined our firm in June.

JOE JUNIUS

Prior to joining Aria Group full-time, Joe worked part-time with our firm while attending Iowa State University. He received his Bachelor of Architecture degree in May and is also an associate AIA member.

CHRIS JOHNSON

Before joining Aria Group, Chris worked with Crafton, Tull, Sparks, & Associates in Rogers, Arkansas. Chris earned his Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Arkansas in 2004 and is also an associate AIA member.

CLAIRE VICINI

Claire graduated in May from Purdue University. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Interior Design. Claire joined our firm in December.

We would like to congratulate **DAVE NASH** and **RYAN PETERSON** for passing their NCARB exams, **GABRIELA ALONSO** for passing her NCIDQ exams and **NEAL THOMPSON** and **JASON ARCHBOLD** on their promotions to Job Captain. In addition, congratulations to **SUSAN JOHNSON** and **KENTA BACAS HOSAKA** for being promoted to Senior Designers.

We are especially pleased to congratulate **PAM HARRIS**. For over 12 years, Pam's design talents have been a key reason for Aria's success. Because of her valuable contributions to our firm, we congratulate her on being promoted to Associate of Aria Group Architects.

We would like to extend our best wishes to **DORI AND JUAN BETANCUR** and **JAMIE AND ERICA GAMAUF** on their weddings. Congratulations to **DAVE AND JENNY NASH** on the birth of their son **ZACHARY, STACY AND MARK BOUWMAN** on the birth of their son **NOLAN** and **CHRIS AND AUTUMN HAMER** on the birth of their son **ARLO**.