

■ ■ Aria Group  
■ ■ Architects, Inc.

ARCHITECTURE • PLANNING • INTERIOR DESIGN

# Ditka's

OAKBROOK, ILLINOIS

2007

*Although the economy has slowed, we have been fortunate enough to not only stay busy but to continue to grow. We have developed relationships with new clients while continuing to design great projects for our loyal existing clients.*

*We found time to celebrate new openings, tour landmark architecture, feed the residents of an SRO on Thanksgiving and help out with Rebuilding Together.*

*Thank you for your continued support, while we strive to design even better projects this year.*

*Jim, Kathy, Walt, Joe, Tom, Frank, Pam H., Lois, Dan, Dave N., Chris D., Paula, Mark, Pam G., Ronnie, Arturo, Jason, Dennis, David R., Debbie, Stacey, Beth, Neal, Susan, Ryan P., Darrell, Kenta, Nazario, Lillian, Dori, Chris B., Renea, Leslie, Jennifer, James, Victor, Nicole, Kate, Chris H., Tracy M., Brian, Olivia, Joe J., Claire, Tracy R., Chris C., Ryan C., Lisa M., Ilias, John C., Matt, Chris C., Javier, Elisabeth, John D., Karl, Nicholas, Robert, Rowan, Amy, Tristin, Beatta, and Laura.*



Photography By: Mark Ballagg

Mike Ditka is a legend in Chicago football history; working with Jeff Shearer and Pat McDonnell, our challenge was to design a restaurant that lived up to his reputation. A former office space in Oakbrook Terrace is the location for this Ditka's restaurant built by Kern Konstruktion.

To give Ditka's its own exterior identity, we used a buff-colored Indiana limestone matched with black entrance canopy and awnings to gently contrast the pink granite of the existing mid-rise office building. The island bar is the interior focal point and center of activity in the restaurant. It is anchored on one end by a column covered in art-tiles. The millwork throughout is a warm, medium cherry. The original ceilings were extremely low as existing floor-to-floor heights were for an office space. To create an illusion of height, we used a wood plank/acoustical finish on the lower ceiling areas and a light colored paint on the higher areas. We also raised ceiling niches wherever possible. Ditka's has become one of the hottest new restaurants in the Western suburbs.

# Westgate Redevelopment Project

OAK PARK, ILLINOIS

The vision of the Westgate project was conceived by Dr. Ivanovic, an Oak Park resident. Together with a fine development team that includes McShane Construction Corp. and Krueger & Assoc., Aria Group put together a mixed-use design that is sensitive to the historical context of the site while introducing a state-of-the-art medical facility and hotel for Oak Park's original downtown. Our design includes a 97,000 SF medical office center, parking garage and a 111 room boutique hotel with a 14,000 SF banquet/conference center. The hotel project, at the site of the current Colt building, includes salvaging the historic Art Deco details of the original structure and re-activating the public breeze way that bisects the plan. Our project's viability is based on the fact that all the structures proposed fit within the confines of the current land ownership, and retains the spirit of Oak Park's Redevelopment Master Plan. Just as important is the fact that the uses proposed in Dr. Ivanovic's vision bring a much needed daytime shopper to our valued downtown retailers.



Renderings By: Frank Cavanaugh

# Tavern at the Park

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



Photography By: William Kildow

Tavern at the Park is located in a prime location across from Chicago's Millennium Park. This restaurant and bar featuring classic American fare seats over 300 and opened in summer 2007 to rave reviews. Owners Peter and Donny de Castro envisioned a contemporary American establishment with the comfort of a neighborhood tavern. It is anchored in a feeling of tradition by details such as wainscot and ceiling beams of dark polished mahogany and by richly textured carpets. A 30 seat bar that is open to the second floor commands an impressive view of Michigan Avenue and raises the energy level throughout the space. A rooftop terrace which will seat 100-plus is in the works for 2009. Leopard Construction was the general contractor.

# Sushi House

OAK PARK, ILLINOIS

Bob and Diana Johnson were pleased to open their sixth Sushi House at the beginning of 2008 in Oak Park. They had approached us with a desire to bring their concept to a higher level of design refinement. Combining traditional Japanese principles of design with a warm, contemporary aesthetic, we created a space that speaks to the purists and welcomes the mainstream. The building consists of three stories at 2,500 SF each. The lower level is an intimate and sleek lounge; the street level hosts the main restaurant with the sushi bar, an elevated tatami dining area, traditional tea rooms, and its own custom-written haiku alongside a 20-ft laser-cut, edge-lit dragon. The third level is an open loft design residence. Sustainability was an important factor leading to the use of natural materials with high-recycled content and/or from easily renewable sources, such as bamboo plywood and flooring, certified lyptus millwork, low-VOC wall coverings, carpeting, and paints. Thorndale Construction was the General Contractor on the project.



Photography By: Mark Ballogg



Photography By: Mark Ballogg

# Maya Del Sol

OAK PARK, ILLINOIS

Margie and Annan Abu-Taleb are former owners of Vivaldi, an Italian restaurant originally on the site of the new Maya Del Sol. On a trip to California they became inspired to return to Oak Park with a new concept developed around Latin Fusion Cuisine. We designed the new Maya Del Sol to provide a high energy bar, comfortable yet dramatic dining room and flexible party room. The décor is warm and Mayan-inspired with yellow, red and orange colors predominating as well as rustic brick walls. The tree-covered outdoor courtyard will have a bar and fire pit. Gus Kostopoulos is the architect of record.

# Cucina Paradiso

OAK PARK, ILLINOIS

Aria Group originally designed Cucina Paradiso in 1995. In 2007, a fire outside the restaurant's rear door (just yards away from Aria Group's office) spread throughout the kitchen ceiling. The resulting smoke damage ruined the dining room. We were able to help change this unfortunate disaster into an opportunity to breathe new life into an already successful Oak Park establishment. Our updated design features a contemporary urban look and invites pedestrians into the storefront for evening dining with features such as tall, slender vases silhouetted against warm, inviting backlit wall panels. Cucina Paradiso continues to be a favorite neighborhood venue.



Photography By: Mark Ballogg

# California Pizza Kitchen

OLD ORCHARD MALL, SKOKIE, ILLINOIS



Photography By: Anthony Gomez

Other stores opened in the last year include 30th & Park, NY; Boca Raton, FL; Brandon, FL; City Line, PA; Coconut Point, FL; Dana Park, AZ; Austin, TX; Hill Center TN; Partridge Creek, MI; Plymouth Meeting, PA; Smith Haven, MA; and Stamford, CT.

This space is a relocation of an existing California Pizza Kitchen from another part of the Old Orchard Mall. The external façade was enlivened by incorporating back lit panels, yellow awnings and an outdoor patio. The addition of the patio and entry required that the storefront be pushed back, allowing for protection from the elements while preserving an outdoor experience. The entry serves as a beacon for customers.

# McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant

OAKBROOK, ILLINOIS



Photography By: William Kildow

Bill McCormick and Doug Schmick are two savvy restaurateurs who have successfully created 80 restaurants and catering operations since the 1970's. In keeping with their innovative approach there is no "corporate blueprint" for restaurant architecture. Each location is developed using locally relevant details within a framework of core elements. In 2007 Aria Group continued a successful seven-year relationship with McCormick & Schmick's by providing them with a new 8000 SF freestanding restaurant in Oakbrook, IL. Aria's vision encompasses not only McCormick & Schmick's signature

design elements but also co-exists with the requirements of the surrounding development. Details such as custom stained glass and full height mahogany wood panels create a cozy, west-coast "fish house" feel. Crown Construction Company finished this project in the summer of 2007.



## Other 2007 Projects

### KONA GRILL

Gilbert, AR  
Haworth Construction, Inc.  
Opening June 2008

Baton Rouge, LA; Stamford, CT;  
and West Palm Beach, FL  
In Motion Builders  
Opening in 2007 & 2008

### NORDSTROM'S BISTRO & EBAR

Keystone, IN; Partridge Creek, MI  
W. E. O'Neil Construction  
Opening Fall 2008

# Republic

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Husband and wife restaurateurs Jeff Zhang and Sandy Yu have opened a 300 plus seat, two-story Pan-Asian restaurant in the heart of the River North area of Chicago. The overall feeling in the space is bright, serene, and streamlined. The first floor bar and lounge is organically inspired with details such as canvas wall coverings and a comfortable, wave-shaped banquette that welcome locals and Michigan Avenue tourists alike. The second floor dining room and sake lounge is designed with complex light covers that define the spaces below. A minimalist dining room with washed, textured walls helps diners focus on the flavorful Asian-inspired cuisine.



Photography By: Mark Ballogg

# Cooper's Hawk Winery and Restaurant

BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS



Photography By: Patsy McEnroe

Cooper's Hawk Winery and Restaurant in Burr Ridge, IL, is a unique concept with demanding programming operating within a fairly tight budget. We were pleased to complete our first project with Tim McEnery and Tom Roos, who already have a store in Orland Park. Built by Lorient Construction, the concept is a working winery, wine retail store and a restaurant with full service menu. The bar has an edgier feel arising from the porcelain tile floor and the stainless steel and wood bar die. The dining room has a more refined design, with dark wood millwork and fabric light fixtures. A feature table, seating 12, is highlighted by an expansive fabric drum fixture and a wine bottle display wall. The private dining room is enclosed with a glass storefront providing a view into the fully-equipped showpiece winery.

## NANDO'S

Washington, DC  
Herman Stewart Construction  
Opening June 2008

## ROCK BOTTOM BREWERY

Orland Park, IL  
Lorient Construction  
Opened in 2007

## HACIENDA COLORADO

Denver, CO  
Westec Construction  
Opened in 2008

## McCORMICK & SHMICK'S

Skokie, IL  
Crown Construction  
Opened Fall 2007



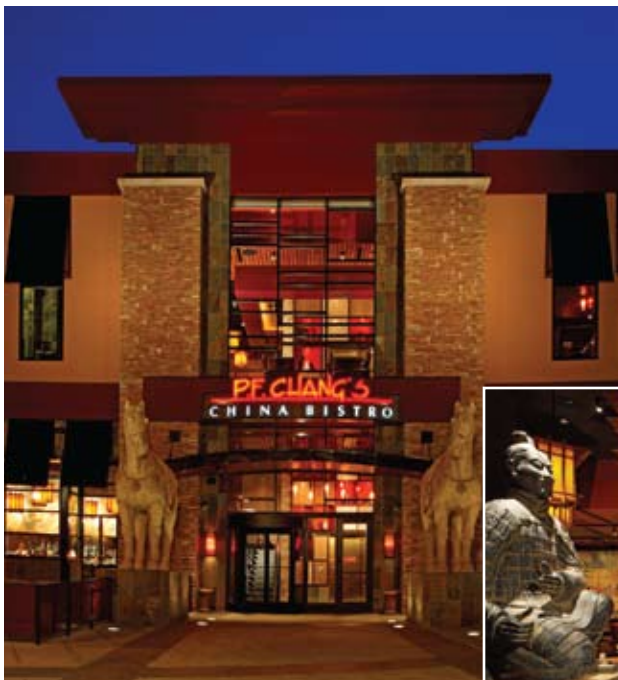
Rendering and Logo By: Frank Cavanaugh

# Rick's

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

Since 1972 Rick Nielsen, the founder and lead guitarist of the band Cheap Trick, has been entertaining fans with his music and wonderfully unique style. We were asked by Rick and his development partner Brent Johnson to design "Rick's". The goal is to create a concept that captures the essence of Rick's personality and his vision of a place that serves great food in comfortable and exciting surroundings. Izzy Kharasch of Hospitality Works Inc. is providing his expertise on the operations side of the concept.

This 18,000 SF entertainment venue features a dining room, large entertainment bar, outdoor beer garden and a banquet facility for up to 250 guests. The highlight of the interior design will be a virtual museum of memorabilia including Rick's collection of unique and rare electric guitars. In this thrilling new venue, Rock & Roll is truly here to stay!



Photography By: Falke Photography

# P.F. Chang's

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS (PRUDENTIAL CENTER)

The P.F. Chang's in the Prudential Center is a two story in-line space built by Shawmut Design and Construction. The eye-catching new façade, with its large entry tower and saturated colors, is visible from the Prudential Center plaza. On the first floor is the exterior entry, a lively bar and a patio. Three large elements dominate; the mural over the bar, the elevator shaft and the stairs. The dining room, kitchen and restrooms are on the second floor, as is the mall entry.



We are celebrating our tenth year of working with P.F. Chang's China Bistro. We've completed twelve stores since the beginning of 2007. Other stores opened last year include Natick, MA; Huntsville, AL; Clinton Township, MI; Ridgeland, MI; Sawgrass Mills, FL; Warrington, PA; Albany, NY; Freehold and Hackensack, NJ and Stamford, CT.

Pittsburg, PA  
Shawmut Design & Construction  
Opened Fall 2007

Schaumburg, IL  
Crown Construction  
Opened Summer 2007

MON AMI GABI  
Reston, VA  
Herman Stewart Construction  
Opening late summer, 2008

VISTA GRILL, DELTA DOWNS  
RACE TRACK AND CASINO  
Vinton, LA  
Alfred Palma, Incorporated  
Opened in 2007



Photography By: Doug Snower

# Pinstripes

NORTHBROOK, ILLINOIS

Dale Schwartz and his partners are delighted with Northbrook's new Pinstripes Bowling, Bocce and Bistro completed in April by FCL builders. This classy, 45,000 SF indoor/outdoor facility includes inviting banquet spaces and a wonderful Italian Bistro in addition to its signature bocce courts and bowling alleys. The successful combination of fine dining and sophisticated sport is exceeding financial projections. Other features include an outdoor patio, fireplace, and event and party rooms. A second location with a new design will open in South Barrington in fall 2008. Negotiations are proceeding on sites in Oakbrook, Scottsdale and LaJolla.

# Martini Park

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



Renderings By: Javier Burciago



Martini Park retained Aria Group in 2007 to continue the evolution of their nightclub/bar/restaurant concept. Our first store, currently under construction, is located in the Rincon Center, a fashionable area of San Francisco. The Martini Park concept includes three distinct bars, the Stage Bar, the Round Bar, and the Patio Bar. Each has its own look but share common elements, such as bar tops that are internally lit custom cast resin. Overall, the concept sets Martini Park apart from other bars and nightclubs and secures its place in a competitive marketplace by appealing to sophisticated clientele. The use of quality finishes and refined details appeals to the sensibilities of these clients. Other Martini Parks on the boards include Scottsdale, AZ and Sunnyvale, CA.

## FOOD DANCE RESTAURANT, BAKERY AND MARKET

Kalamazoo, MI  
Miller-Davis Construction  
Opened in 2007

## REEL CLUB

Oakbrook, IL  
Crown Construction  
Opened November 2007

## NEW DELI & CAFE, SAM'S TOWN CASINO

Shreveport, LA  
McInnis Brothers  
Opening Fall 2008

## ROSEMONT CONVENTION CENTER ENTRY PLAZA

Rosemont, IL  
Degan-Rosato Construction  
Opening Summer 2008



Photography By: Frank Cummings



Photography By: Lois Bair



Photography By: Victor Baez

Balancing work and pleasure, Aria Group's Social Committee did a splendid job organizing recreational outings for our staff. The Thanksgiving Potluck is always fun and our Holiday party had the "Coach's" stamp of approval at Ditka's in Oakbrook Terrace. Spring brought us to Plano for a tour of Mies's masterpiece, the Farnsworth House. Summer took us to Pinstripes in Northbrook for an afternoon of bowling, outdoor bocce ball and Italian food. Aria's softball team made great strides in 2007. Unfortunately, the box scores didn't earn us a championship, but our players' competitive spirit and fun-loving attitude make them champions in our book. A variety of social outings created team building experiences. They included plays like Blue Man Group and "Frank's House" at the Goodman Theater. Lots of laughs were had at Second City and some had a chance to tour Soldier Field up close and personal.

## Aria Personals

### 2/16/07 TRACY RODRIGUEZ

Prior to working at Aria Group, Tracy was at LaSalle Bank for 10 years. Her current role here is Office Manager Assistant.

### 3/17/07 CHRIS CURRAN

Chris received his Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2004. Prior to joining our office, he worked with Architectural Resource Corp. in Frankfort, Illinois.

### 4/9/07 RYAN CARRON

Ryan received his Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies from University of Illinois in Champaign and his Masters of Architecture from Arizona State University in 2006. Ryan worked with Berkowitz Design in St. Louis before joining our office.

### 5/1/2007 LISA MACEDA

Lisa graduated from the Illinois Institute of Art in 2004 with a degree in Interior Design. Prior to working at Aria Group, she worked for Kimball Hill Homes.

### 6/4/2007 ILIAS SAOUKBAEV

Ilias graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture Studies. Previously he worked for two years at Interplan Midwest Architects in Oakbrook, IL.

### 7/2/2007 JOHN CINELLI

John graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1985 with an Architectural Degree. Prior to joining Aria Group he was a principal of a medium size architectural firm.

### 8/1/2007 CHRIS CARON

Chris graduated in 1995 from ITT Technical Institute in San Antonio, Texas with an Associates of Applied Science. He has worked as a CAD Manager for both Environmental Systems Design and Teng and Associates.

### 8/16/2007 JAVIER BURCIAGA

Javier earned a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Bachelor of Arts in French from DePaul University in 1996. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee in 1999. Prior to Aria Group, Javier worked for Lucien Lagrange Architects in Chicago and 4240 Architecture in Chicago.

### 9/4/2007 JOHN DROGOS

John graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture and the Arts. Previously he worked at Aldridge Electric and Warman Design and Development.

### 9/4/2007 ELISABETH BRANTLEY

Elisabeth graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Architecture in 2005. Elisabeth moved to Chicago and worked for Craig and Associates Architects, a small residential firm, prior to starting with Aria Group Architects.

### 11/19/2007 KARL GUIDER

Karl received his education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he earned both his Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies in December 2004 and a Masters of Architecture in May 2007. Prior to starting at Aria Group he worked for Vasilion Architects.

### 12/17/2007 ROWAN DAVIDSON

Rowan graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2006 with a Master's degree in Architecture. Prior to starting at Aria Group, he worked for an architectural firm in Minneapolis.

### 12/17/2007 ROBERT CHEVAL

Robert attended the University of Illinois at Chicago and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies in December 2003 and earned his Masters of Architectural Science in May 2006. He worked at Wold Architects and Engineers prior to joining Aria Group.

### 12/17/2007 NICHOLAS POLUHA

Nicholas graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies in 2004. Prior to joining Aria Group he worked at Cody Design Group Architects in Naperville for two years.

We would like to congratulate **NAZARIO MAGAÑA** and his wife **LORENA** on the birth of their daughter **GISELLE**, born September 29, 2007 and also to congratulate **VICTOR BAEZ** and his wife **MARIA** on the birth of their second child, **NATHAN ELIJAH**, who was born on June 14, 2007.

We also congratulate **BETH SZCZESNIAK**, **CHRIS BISSEL**, **DAVID RIGGS**, **RONNIE LESTER** and **CHRISTOPHER HAMER**, who were promoted to Project Coordinator.



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