

■ ■ Aria Group  
■ ■ Architects, Inc.

ARCHITECTURE • PLANNING • INTERIOR DESIGN

# Celebrating Our First Twenty Years

## 2009

*This year Aria Group Architects celebrates its 20th anniversary, a truly rewarding milestone. We have been fortunate to continue working with wonderful clients on great projects. Internationally, our work includes projects in the Middle East & Mexico, domestically, cities across the country and locally in Oak Park. We are happy to see a surge in commissions of new and exciting projects in our office and look forward to the trend continuing in 2010.*

*We appreciate the trust and confidence our clients have placed upon us over the years. We also would like to thank other valued team members; contractors, subcontractors, consultants and vendors. We at Aria Group wish you and your loved ones a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year.*

*Jim, Kathy, Walt, Joe, Tom, Frank, Pam, Dan, Lois, Dave, Chris D., Mark, Ronnie, Arturo, Debbie, David, Stacey, Neal, Ryan, Kenta, Nazario, Lillian, Chris H., Dorota, Leslie O., Renea, Jennifer, Victor, Nicole, Tracey, Olivia, Brian, Joe J., Claire, Chris C., Lisa, Ilias, John C., Chris C., John D., Elisabeth, Karl, Robert, Nicholas, Matthew, Amy, Tristin, Laura, Kristin, Beata, Leslie B., and Shannon.*



# 20 Years of History

The Big 20.....WOW!!!!

It is hard to believe that a little over twenty years ago Kathy, Walter, Joe and I started Aria Group Architects, Inc. in the front of our home in Oak Park. We were only in that office for 4 months before we moved into a retired architect's office on North Avenue in Chicago. That year (1989) the economy was in a recession yet we were busy starting and growing our firm. Thanks to Rich Melman, Bob Vick (Bub City), Howard Katz (Tucci Milan), Joe Duellman (McCormick Center Hotel), Rich Borst (Borst Office Building), Lulu Yen (Signature Events) and others, we made it through our first year.



Over the years we have grown to an energetic, creative staff of 64 and completed over 1,600 projects. We have designed great buildings and interiors in 40 states, Europe, the Middle East and Mexico. We have long-standing relationships with some of the leaders in the hospitality industry including Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises (78 projects); P.F. Chang's China Bistro (112); California Pizza Kitchen (100); McCormick & Schmick's (36) and Hyatt Hotels. Some other special projects include Eagle Ridge Inn and Resort in Galena, Blue Chip Casino, Hotel & Spa in Michigan City, many projects at Brookfield Zoo, Rosemont Convention Center Expansion, City Park Retail/Entertainment Center in Lincolnshire and the Esplanade of Algonquin.

The original partners have been joined by Tom and Frank as Principals and Dan, Dave, Chris and Pam as Associates. Our firm has made a difference in the lives of our staff, clients, community and particularly the users of our buildings, by balancing the art, technology, people and business aspects of architecture. We continue to find better ways to develop the talents of our team members and create designs that exceed expectations while providing outstanding personal service. We look forward to the next 20 years and its challenges, triumphs and rewards.

**James Lencioni**

President

## Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant

THE ARBORETUM, SOUTH BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS

Tim McEnery and Tom Roos opened a fourth store this year, their first freestanding Cooper's Hawk, in the upscale Arboretum development. The developer's design guidelines were very specific, resulting in a prairie style building incorporating Roman brick. Copper roofing highlights the exterior rotunda while a black steel accent band reinforces the building's modern, horizontal lines. Eye-catching dining room elements include specialty glass reminiscent of champagne bubbles and a feature wall of wine bottles. The winery dining area consists of oak wine barrels stacked along the windows, which creates an interesting exterior view and adds interior warmth. Aria Group also remodeled the original Cooper's Hawk in Orland Park. We enlarged and redesigned the retail area and created a new private dining room. As this hot concept continues to grow, we are proud to be a part of their success.



Photography By: Brian Hall

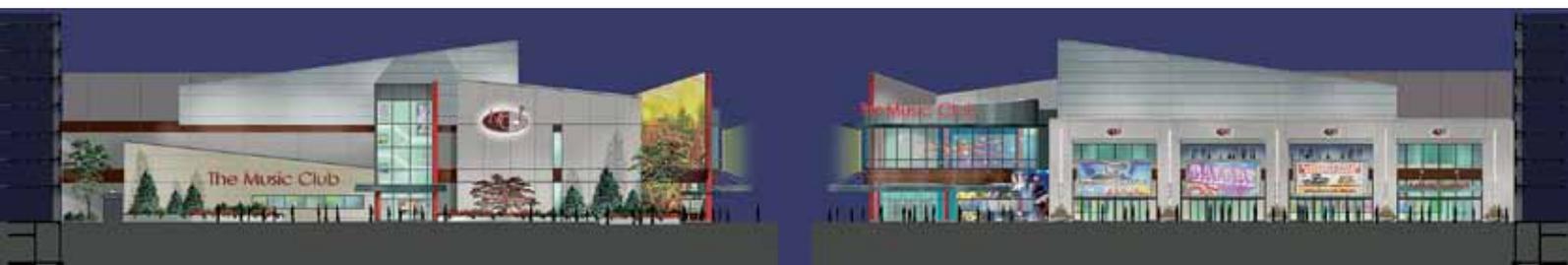


# Village of Rosemont

ROSEMONT, ILLINOIS



Continuing our relationship with the Village of Rosemont, we are working on several concept plans and infrastructure designs. They include the renovation and expansion of the Williams Street Garage pedway and street enhancement, interior design renovations for the Donald E. Stephens Conference Center and different master plan options for Rosemont's entertainment district. Included in the district is a feasibility study for an exciting music club venue. We are working with Mayor Stephens to develop this feasibility study for a state-of-the-art live music venue programmed to hold 2,400 to 3,000 people.



# California Pizza Kitchen

NORTHBROOK COURT MALL, NORTHBROOK, ILLINOIS

The newest CPK in Northbrook, IL, which is currently in the design phase, will mark our 100th store in a 13-year collaboration with California Pizza Kitchen. This restaurant will feature an enlivened façade of natural stone, LED lighting, brushed aluminum detailing as well as an outdoor patio. The updated interior look for CPK, which includes warm finishes of textured stone, rich woods, floating ceiling planes and dramatic lighting, will be continued at this location.

Other stores opened in the last year include Cherry Hill Mall, NJ; Norcross, GA; Valencia, CA and Wellesley, MA.



Rendering By: Nicole Poole

# Nando's Peri-Peri

18TH STREET, WASHINGTON, D.C.



Nando's, a U.K. based, flame-grilled chicken restaurant featuring Peri-Peri chili sauces, has opened their second store in Washington, D.C. Aria Group Architects, Inc. in collaboration with Harrison Design of the U.K. and Herman Stewart as the general contractor, designed a unique two-story restaurant that included a new mezzanine, wine room and an artist-inspired plaster wall. Casual comfort and natural materials are other key elements in all Nando's locations, but each one reflects the local flavor. Nando's walls are a gallery for contemporary African artists, a reflection of the owner's strong support of the arts.

Other stores on the boards: Annapolis, MD and Silver Springs, MD.



Photography By: Don Cooper

## Other 2009 Projects

**BRICK HOUSE**  
Willow Grove, PA  
Schorn Construction  
Opened September 2009

**BRICK HOUSE**  
Niles, IL  
In-Motion Builders  
Under Construction

**THE LUCKY MONK**  
South Barrington, IL  
Crown Construction  
Opened November 2009

# Hubbell & Hudson Bistro

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS

Hubbell and Hudson Bistro is a new restaurant concept by Cary Attar, the former CEO of Fox and Obel's in Chicago. His goal was to provide the people of Houston, Texas with a world class culinary experience based upon the vision of having a market, bistro and catering all underneath one roof. Aria Group's design challenge was to provide a custom 1,800 SF bistro that could showcase not only the food and wines of the market but set the stage for an intimate dining experience removed from the bustle of the 20,000 SF market. Harvey Construction completed the bistro in February 2009.



# Oak Tree Restaurant & Bakery

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



Photography By: Tony Soluri



The Oak Tree Restaurant has been a neighborhood favorite in the 900 N. Michigan building for over 17 years. The Landlord, Urban Retail Properties, appreciated the concept however, were concerned by the dated look. They also believed that an update would draw even more patrons to this 6th floor location. Hale DeMar, the owner, agreed and also wanted to add a strong bakery element to the concept. The result is the beautiful new and improved Oak Tree Restaurant and Bakery which is exceeding everyone's expectations. The contractor was PJI and the remodeled restaurant opened in November 2008.

**PING PONG DIM SUM**  
Washington, D.C.  
Herman Stewart Construction  
Opening December 2009

**YOLO** (You Only Live Once)  
Nashville, TN  
Alliance Corporation  
Opened November 2009

**CITYGATE GRILLE**  
Naperville, IL  
Opened October 2009

**WILDBERRY/WESTWOOD**  
Schaumburg, IL  
Tessler Construction  
Opened October 2009

# Barclay's American Grille

OAK PARK, ILLINOIS



Photography By: Doug Snower

In 1902, it was a common sight to see Philander Barclay leave his bicycle shop in Oak Park, camera in tow, looking for something interesting to photograph; images that were featured in Philander's at the Carlton Hotel. Our client Mike Fox asked us to re-design this Oak Park institution, preserving the tradition while creating a more casual environment. The new design features darker woodwork, lighter walls, a new back-bar design and a reconfigured seating arrangement. The addition of several video displays and custom art wall covering provide a more relaxed atmosphere. Large French doors open to the street and an expanded sidewalk café. In all, the design provides a relaxed environment for patrons to enjoy classic American cuisine.

# Blue Chip Casino, Spa & Hotel

MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA

Photography By: Walt Bukoa



IT'S VEGAS, BABY!



THE GAME

This year as part of Boyd Gaming's major expansion of Blue Chip Casino, we designed two new entertainment/restaurant venues. It's Vegas, Baby! is a Las Vegas-themed multi-media/live entertainment, full-service restaurant. It truly brings a little Vegas to Northwest Indiana. During the day, diners are treated to great food while experiencing elements of modern and vintage Vegas. At night, the place is jumping with live entertainment.

The Game was designed to have a "sports bar meets Vegas sport book" theme. Large video screens feature sports events from all over the world in this upscale yet casual venue with continuously running message boards updating scores.

## PRICE CHOPPER

Schenectady, NY  
LeChase Construction  
Opening Spring 2010

## MURIALE'S RESTAURANT

Fairmont, WV  
Ongoing renovations

## CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL LOBBY/ CONFERENCE CENTER REHAB

Rosemont, IL  
Completion Early 2010

## LONG BEACH COUNTRY CLUB

Long Beach, IN  
Galway  
Opened May 2009

# Nordstrom's Café Bistro

KENWOOD TOWNE CENTER, KENWOOD, OHIO



Photography By: Anthony Gomez

Kenwood, Ohio welcomed the new Nordstrom Café Bistro and eBar to the Kenwood Towne Center this past fall. Nordstrom's customers are drawn into the 2,700 SF Café Bistro by the engaging activity in the display kitchen to the right and the inviting dining area to the left. Rich, cherry wood low height walls and ceiling elements, sophisticated booth fabrics and earth tone colors with splashes of red provide a warm, comfortable dining experience.

Just outside the main entry to the Nordstrom store, within the mall concourse, is located the new 700 SF eBar. Customers are greeted with a medium cherry wood counter and earth tone walls. These elements, along with various displays, provide a great design in a compact space which enhances the purchase of the specialty coffees, pastries, smoothies, sandwiches and salads.

# P.F. Chang's China Bistro

REFORMA 222, COL JUÁREZ, MEXICO CITY

Over the last 12 years, Aria Group's collaboration with P.F. Chang's China Bistro has been limited to the United States. In 2009, we had the chance to take their strong brand identity international. Working in conjunction with local developer Alsea, Aria Group completed a project on Reforma Boulevard in Mexico City. Opened in October, the site is a two level urban space fronting one of the busiest streets in Mexico City.

In addition to the Mexico City site, international projects are under way in Guadalajara, Kuwait and Dubai U.A.E.

Besides the projects abroad, we are currently working on their first LEED certified restaurant located at La Palmeria in Corpus Christi, TX scheduled to open in 2010. Stores that opened stateside include Cambridge and Dedham, MA; Buffalo, NY; Temecula, CA; Akron, OH and Grand Rapids, MI.

Photography By: Red Mint Photography



**DAVE & BUSTER'S**  
Braintree, MA  
In Design Phase  
Opening Late 2010

**CAFE BA BA REEBA**  
Las Vegas, NV  
Reconcepting  
Construction beginning  
January 2010

**MCCORMICK & SCHMICK'S  
SEAFOOD RESTAURANT**  
Houston Pavilions  
Houston, TX  
Crown Construction  
Opened October 2008

**MCCORMICK & SCHMICK'S  
SEAFOOD RESTAURANT**  
Houston Town & Country  
Houston, TX  
In permit phase  
Opening Spring 2010

# Competitions



Rendering By: Frank Cavanaugh



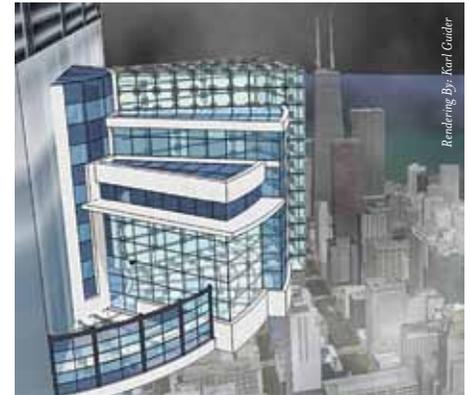
Rendering By: Dorota Betancur



Rendering By: Nicole Poole and Lisa Maceda



Rendering By: Nicole Poole and Lisa Maceda



Rendering By: Karol Guader



Rendering By: Nicole Poole and Lisa Maceda

We participated in several national competitions this year that ranged from the practical to the theoretical. They included a pier museum in Miami Beach, ideas for urban shade, shelter designs, a sustainable suite design and an information kiosk for the Northeast Chapter of the AIA. We congratulate all our staff that contributed their design talents to the effort.

## Aria Personals

Congratulations to **JOE** and **PAM VAJDA**, **RENEA REICHENBACH** and **ZACKERY CARR**, **CLAIRE** and **BILLY CRUZ**, **LESLIE** and **JOSH OTT**, and **RYAN** and **CARLA PETERSON** on their weddings this year.

We'd also like to congratulate **BRIAN ZIELINSKI** and his wife **JORDAN** on the birth of their daughter, **ELIZABETH ROSE**, and **NAZARIO MAGAÑA** and his wife **LORENA** on the birth of their second child, **CHRISTIAN ANDRES**.

Congratulations to **JOE JUNIUS**, **NICOLE POOLE**, **CHRIS HAMER**, **PAM VAJDA**, **JOE VAJDA**, **TRISTIN KLASS**, **ILIAS SAOUKBAEV**, **CHRIS CURRAN**, **DOROTA BETANCUR**, **BOB CHEVAL**, and **BRIAN ZIELINSKI**, who all passed the LEED® exam this year.

We'd also like to recognize **CHRIS HAMER**, **DOROTA BETANCUR**, **LESLIE OTT**, **RENEA REICHENBACH**, and **JENNIFER VON EBERS**, who have been part of Aria Group for the past five years, **MARK O'HENLEY**, who has been part of the Aria Group team for the past ten years, and **PAM VAJDA** who has been with Aria Group for fifteen years.

This year Aria Group staff participated in a number of community events such as: providing a Thanksgiving meal for the SRO residents of the YMCA, providing Christmas gifts for a needy family through St. Giles Giving Tree, an April Life Source® blood drive here in the office, and collecting donations for Kiva.

If you would like to receive periodic e-mails related to what we're creating, relevant industry information and more, go to our web site at [WWW.ARIAINC.COM](http://WWW.ARIAINC.COM) to sign up.

