

FEATURED

BLVD

QUARTINO

STEAKHOUSE

SHAKE SHACK

CATALINA

the  
*Blueprint*

ARIA GROUP ARCHITECTURE + design





Caesars Entertainment  
Celebrity Chef Steakhouse  
Photo by Benjamin Norton

This year marks a big moment in Aria Group history! We are celebrating our 35th anniversary, and with it the incredible projects and people that have allowed us to last. We're welcoming new faces, building new relationships with clients, and pushing our capabilities to new heights. More than three decades in this industry is no easy feat, and we are so grateful for the trust and opportunities our partners have given us over the years. We have big plans on the horizon for 2024, and we can't wait to take you along that journey with us.

-Chris Hamer, President

# Featured Projects

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## ON THE COVER

BLVD Steakhouse Patio  
Photo by Matt Haas



Chicago, IL | Opened May 2023

The owners of the opulent Art Deco-style steakhouse, Day Off Group, had a vision when the empty lot next to their building became available. They imagined a private, secret garden for dining where their guests could enjoy their dinner and drinks in fresh air on a patio surrounded by lush greenery. Our team embraced the idea and delivered just that.

A welcome contrast between the dimly lit, moody interior of the restaurant, the patio transports you into an enchanted scene through the metal archway adorned with twinkling white lights. While the

patio was intentionally given a more relaxed feel than the interior, nods to the interior's deco influence include the frosted pendants above the bar, the patterned laser-cut screens, and metallic accents.

- Catie Crutchfield, Senior Interior Designer

We were so thrilled to see the overwhelmingly positive response of the new space from the public and our industry peers. This project was our first time working with Day Off Group, and we're excited to share what we have coming up in 2024.

- Matt Clarke,  
Project Manager & Senior Associate

Scope Architecture & Design Seats 276 Square footage 5,060  
Contractor LG Group Engineers BTR Engineering, CEA&A, SPACECO Inc.  
Kitchen Consultant Trimark Foodservice Landscape Design Christy Webber  
Photographer Matt Haas



Project Team Scott Dobson, Architectural Designer • Catie Crutchfield, Senior Interior Designer • Joe Junius, Senior Associate • Matt Clarke, Senior Associate • Frank Cavanaugh, Principal



**Project Team** Catie Crutchfield, Senior Interior Designer • Joe Junius, Senior Associate • Matt Clarke, Senior Associate • Frank Cavanaugh, Principal

The Colony, TX | Opened June 2023

Chicago's beloved Quartino Ristorante opened its doors in Texas for the first time, setting up shop in Grandscape at The Colony. Working with Gibsons Restaurant Group to expand their time-tested concept, this design captures the essence of Quartino's global roots, blending the rich traditions and food culture of Italy with the vibrant energy of Chicago, all within a spacious Texas setting.

"Sunlight streams through the windows, illuminating reclaimed wall tiles and deep wood tones. Modern lighting and plush seating add a touch of contemporary comfort, while special booths and textured ceiling panels create an intimate and comfortable atmosphere. Mosaic floors at the entrance complete the Italian feel."

- Joe Junius,  
Project Designer & Senior Associate

The focus at Quartino is on creating a communal dining experience. Their menu features small, shareable plates, perfectly complemented by a carefully curated wine list highlighting small producers and family-owned operations. Open kitchens put the culinary artistry on display, allowing guests to witness the dedication and skill that goes into each dish, from hand-rolled pasta to handcrafted cocktails. The two-story space seamlessly transitions from a lively indoor dining area to a refreshing outdoor patio, offering a unique dining experience for every guest.

- Matt Clarke,  
Project Manager & Senior Associate

Scope Architecture & Design Seats 594 Square footage 12,860  
Contractor Gilmon Fox Engineers Thornton & Tomasetti, RTM Engineering Kitchen  
Consultant ADE Food Service Client Project Manager Pritchard Associates Signage  
Chandler Signage Lighting Archistoric Custom Lighting  
Exterior Shell Grandscape Photographer Provided by Gibsons Restaurant Group





Elizabeth, IN | Opened January 2023

This celebrity chef's steakhouse brand is an expansion of a culinary empire across both the UK and the United States. We worked with Caesars Entertainment and the celebrity chef's team to bring this concept into focus.

The classically appointed space takes inspiration from both the chef's London roots and its surroundings in Southern Indiana's racehorse country. Situated in Caesars Southern Indiana Hotel & Casino, we worked with the clients to combine refined British motifs with cheeky personality and the approachable hospitality that has become synonymous with America's heartland.

- Pete Cotsilis, Project Coordinator

Stately archways carve out and intimate alcove punctuated by a sprawling display of the robust wine selection. The structural details imbue the space with an old-world sense of monumentality while subtly nodding to London's iconic tube system. A warm color palette delicately balances soft neutrals and rich touches of earthy green and orange. Luxe seating and a loungey bar space set a tone for guests to enjoy themselves in the high-end yet playful atmosphere. The exposed kitchen immerses guests in truly experiential dining, tapping into the buzzy energy and spectacle of both the casino and culinary worlds. This modern take on the classic steakhouse honors impeccable taste alongside unique personality and gives patrons a winning experience.

- Liz Neuffer, Project Designer

Scope Architecture & Design Seats 164 Square footage 6,550  
 Contractor Harmon Construction Engineers Henderson Engineers, TLF Inc.  
 Photographer Benjamin Norton





Portland, OR | Opened April 2023

Taking inspiration from Portland's unique lifestyle, this design celebrates the essentials of living well in the city. Now in our 14th year of partnership with Shake Shack, we've distilled their modern sensibility and the essence of Portland into simple forms and natural materials, creating a harmonious and visually appealing space.

Respecting the building's history, we preserved the original footprint, height, and structural elements. The exterior design reflects our commitment to the community. Expansive windows forge a connection between the inviting interior and the surrounding green space.

- Guillermo Gomez, Project Coordinator

A key feature is the expansive outdoor patio, offering a haven for relaxation and connection. Uncovered and

covered seating caters to diverse preferences, while bike parking encourages eco-friendly commutes. A fixed ping-pong table sparks playful interaction, and strategically placed patio lights extend the day's enjoyment.

Nature seamlessly weaves its way into the experience. Built-in planters add a touch of life, further emphasizing the connection between indoors and outdoors. The skilled craftsmanship shines through in the extensive use of glazed brick, its smooth surface accented with the raw, industrial beauty of steel channel inserts. Finally, a local redwood trellis adds a final flourish, its warm texture and local origin embodying the spirit of Portland's creative community.

- Liliana Borchers, Architectural Designer

Scope Architecture & Design Seats 251 Square footage 4,063 Contractor R&H Construction Engineers Henderson Engineers, Dibble Engineers, Inc., Dea Inc. Signage Chandler Signs Photographer Sally Painter



Project Team Liliana Borchers, Architectural Designer • Sana Ahmad, Senior Designer • Andrew Cunningham, Project Coordinator • Guillermo Gomez, Project Coordinator • Neal Thompson, Senior Associate • Thomas Smiciklas, Principal



Charlotte, NC | Opened November 2022

Embarking on a creative journey with a long-time client, Ditka's Restaurant Group, we were tasked with bringing a unique vision to life. The project team not only designed the interiors of the new establishment but also took an integral role in branding, ensuring a cohesive and memorable guest experience. The result was Catalina, a dining experience that seamlessly combines inviting warmth with trendy aesthetics.

Situated amidst vibrant neighborhoods in Charlotte, Catalina is strategically positioned to become a community culinary hub. The restaurant's inviting ambiance, coupled with its design elements, creates an all-encompassing appeal that resonates with the surrounding neighborhood. Hanging plants cascade from above, infusing the space with a breath of fresh air and lending a touch of natural vibrancy. At the heart of it all stands the oval bar, a mesmerizing centerpiece that beckons guests to gather and unwind. The walls are adorned in artwork with scenes that evoke the tranquil charm of Catalina

Island. A focal point in the restaurant, a large expo window with delicate mullions invites guests to peer into the kitchen. The stone tabletops, featuring a wood edge, add a touch of elegance, providing a tactile and visually pleasing element to the dining experience.

- Courtney Curcio, Architectural Designer

While working on this project, I had the opportunity to help with the artwork and plant install to ensure that our vision would come to fruition. I really enjoyed the opportunity to work hands on with the contractor and installers and be on site during the final days of completion.

- Emma Phillips, Senior Designer

During the design phase of Catalina, it was a new experience for me to work so closely with the owner on creating millwork details and requirements for operations. It was nice to hear firsthand how each area would be used and listening to the thought process from the owner.

- James Gallagher, Project Coordinator



**Project Team** Courtney Curcio, Architectural Designer · Emma Phillips, Senior Designer · James Gallagher, Project Coordinator · Elizabeth Kozlik, Project Designer, Dan Bernatek, Principal

**Scope** Architecture & Design **Seats** 198 **Square footage** 5,530 SF **Contractor** Scott General Contracting Co. **Engineers** Hart, Gaugler & Associates Inc., Core States Group **Photographer** The Plaid Penguin

# Sneak Peak

THE BLUEPRINT 2024 FUTURE ISSUES



**SALTWATER**  
Rosemont, IL



**VERDAD**  
Austin, TX



**LUCKY CAT**  
Miami, FL



PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY GIBSONS RESTAURANT GROUP

## DALLAS OBSERVER

The Dallas Observer spotlights Quartino's recent opening in a feature article. Delving into the restaurant's inviting atmosphere and delectable menu, the piece highlights Quartino's daily-made fresh pasta and other enticing Italian offerings.

[READ MORE](#)



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATT HAAS

## EATER CHICAGO

Eater Chicago unveils BLVD's stunning new all-season patio in a recent article. Highlighting Aria Group's design vision and innovative features for its year round appeal. The article also dives into BLVD's delectable food and drink menu.

[READ MORE](#)



PHOTOGRAPHY BY THE PLAID PENGUIN

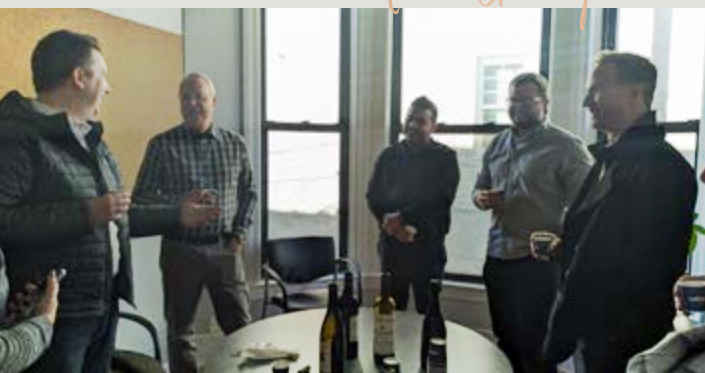
## AXIOS CHARLOTTE

AXIOS Charlotte shines a light on Catalina, showcasing its delectable food and drink offerings through detailed menu descriptions. The article explores the restaurant's ambiance, highlighting its seating arrangements, and captivating interior design photos and enticing food images.

[READ MORE](#)

IN THE PRESS

## FUN AT Aria Group







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