



Trendlines: Fire Elements

# Flame on

**F**act: People like fire. We just do. Maybe the primal need for fire never left our subconscious after using it to survive for millions of years. Or maybe we all just really like s'mores.

Kris Lajeskie of Kris Lajeskie Design Group says people gravitate toward fire elements because they want to feel nurtured.

“What’s more comforting than using fire for warmth and feeling that beautiful glow?” she says.

Whatever the reason, hotels are finding ways to capitalize on this instinct.



Kris Lajeskie



## Buffalo Thunder Resort & Spa, Santa Fe, N.M.

The Buffalo Thunder’s 2,500-square-foot penthouse features custom master artisan finishes and handmade furniture throughout. The fireplace is the focal point of the suite and features a handmade walnut and slub glass finish surrounding the 6-foot ribbon fireplace by Spark Modern Fires. The open floor plan creates entertainment flexibility with a semicircle around the fireplace and TV, creating function and intimacy. Buffalo Thunder was designed by the Kris Lajeskie Design Group.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KATE RUSSELL (TOP); MIKE WILSON (BOTTOM)





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**Four Seasons Hotel  
Washington, D.C.**

The Rockwell Group designed a restaurant for the Four Seasons that reflects the elegant informality of modern American cuisine, while also paying tribute to the classical stature of the hotel. To achieve this balance, the design was based on a modern interpretation of a tavern. While sitting in the Lobby Library next to the fireplace, one can experience both contemporary art on the gallery wall as well as books on gardens, nature and contemporary and classical art. The new outdoor fire elements from Urban Fire extend the experience to the patio.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL KLEINBERG (TOP, BOTTOM); POWERS & CREWE (MIDDLE)



There are a variety of ways designers can incorporate fire into their design, due in large part to the amount of companies now producing modern fire element products—EcoSmart Fire, Lennox Hearth Products, Oasis Fire, Spark Modern Fire and Urban Fire, just to name a few.

Fire pits and tables are becoming so popular the question isn't, "Do you have a fire element?" it's "What kind?"

"It depends on the area," Lajeskie says. "In public spaces, [fire elements are] more of a focal point. It can really be impactful."

Lajeskie says even though the fire is the focal point, the seating around or near the fire should stay within the design theme of the rest of the property and not become all about the fire.

"We do have some places with a stone fire pit and the seating is stone and the whole thing becomes a design element—like you're in an ancient kiva,"

Lajeskie said.

Steven Miller, principal for The Plumber, works on installing fire elements for commercial properties. He recently worked on the Artmore in Atlanta.

Miller says two important factors to keep in mind are safety—choosing the correct vendors, products and location—and revenue opportunities for the hotel. Fire elements are meant to draw people, and where the people are drawn should benefit the hotel.

"What you're doing is creating a place for congregation," he said. "It gives a place to sit and enjoy conversation ... it's a way for enhancing bar sales for the hotel."

For the Artmore, Miller installed a fire/water element, which adds yet another soothing natural feature. It also made for more of a challenge.

"The design we considered at first would have had gas bubbling through the water and ignited at the top," says Allen Gutierrez,





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CEO of Urbana Realty Advisors, the company in charge of reviving the Artmore. "It would have appeared to have an illusion of the water being on fire. This was decided to be too unstable, very difficult to maintain and the technology and engineering was difficult to document."

Miller chose Grand Effects for the fire system. He says the system is equipped with checks and balances to ensure the flame stays lit. Even if it blows out in a strong wind the flame gets relit, so as not to continually leak gas. This kind of technology has been around for decades in heating systems, but it is just recently being produced for decorative purposes, he says.

— By *Chris Crowell*



### The Artmore, Atlanta

Urbana Realty Advisors and Jamestown & Associates, both of Atlanta, renovated this Atlanta landmark to preserve the hotel's charming and unique design, which reflects the art of Southern hospitality in a European boutique package. The property is configured in a U shape with an outdoor courtyard in the middle. The revamped courtyard, with its centerpiece fire pit, acts as an urban sanctuary. Some of the features of the fire element are lights in the basin and an auto-fill/non-overflow basin.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVEN MILLER

AK Restaurant + Bar | Builder: PA Design | Interiors: DnA | Photo: Alen Lin, Kim Richte



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outdoor focus

1



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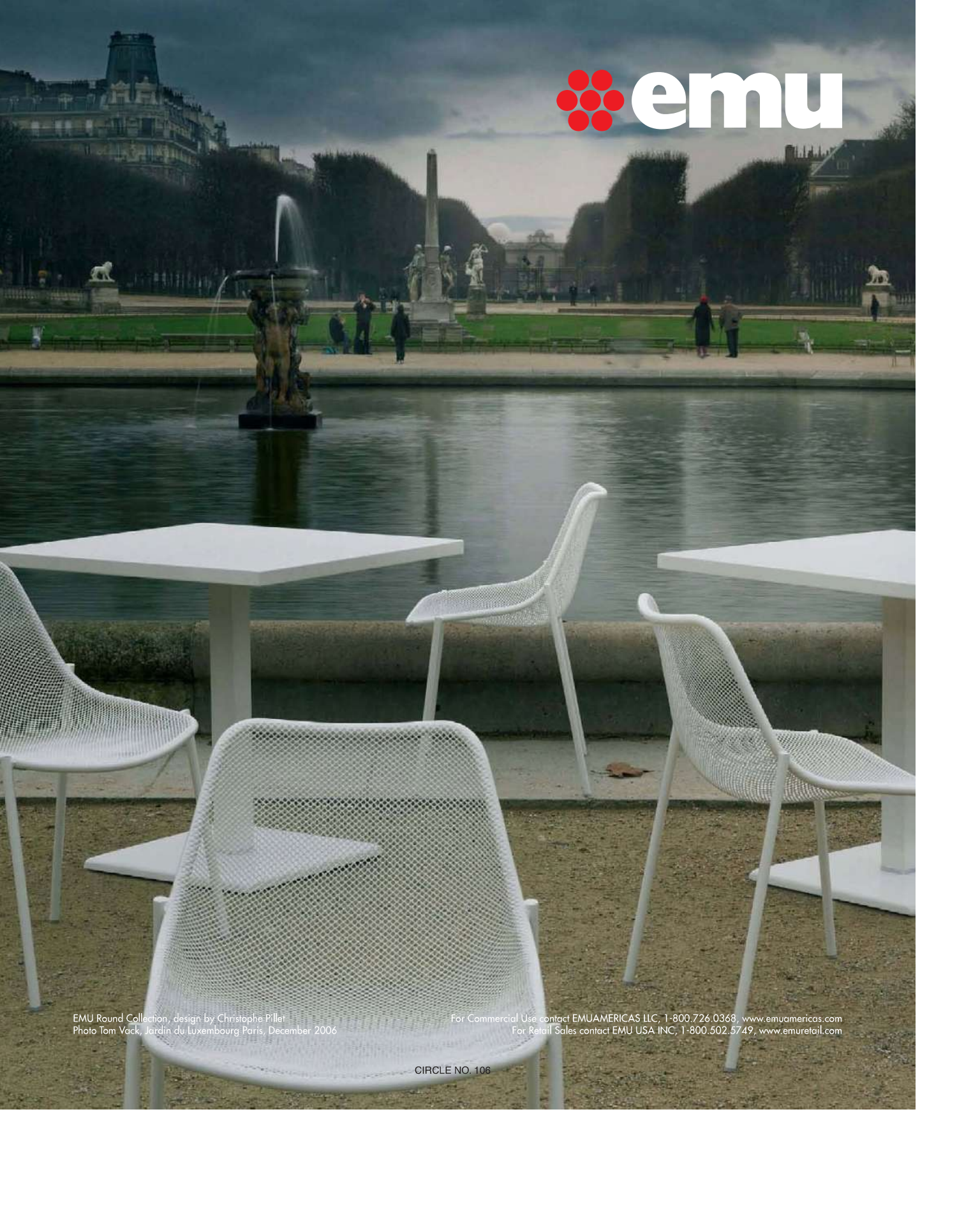
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Photo Tom Vack, Jardin du Luxembourg Paris, December 2006

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## outdoor focus

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# Designing CityCenter

The city within a city on Las Vegas Blvd. is almost as massive as the work that went into it

BY JASON Q. FREED, SENIOR EDITOR

In a recently launched ad campaign for Aria, the 4,000-room casino-hotel in the middle of CityCenter, a man glides his golf club head across a fairway covered in morning dew, leaving a wavy trail in the grass. The shot is followed by exterior views of Aria, its curved glass breaking the sunlight and divid-

ing the sky. Implied is the notion an architect can get his inspiration on the golf course.

Oh, if it were only that easy.

In reality, inspiration plants the seed, but growing the project requires flawless execution from a team consisting of hundreds of partners. For example, it took eight world-class architects,

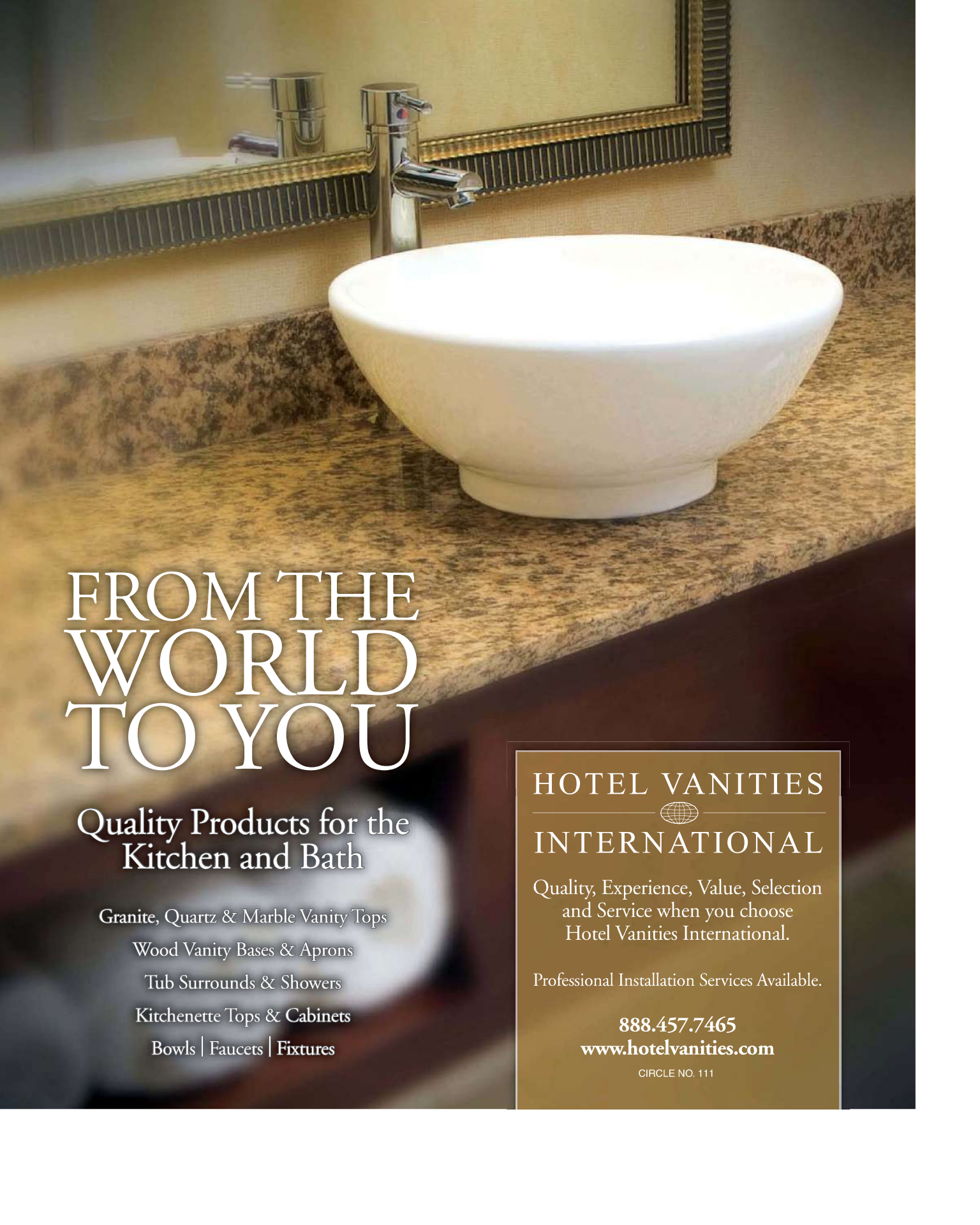
several architects of record, 45 interior designers and hundreds of consultants six years to pour over blueprints, design and build Las Vegas' newest addition—MGM Mirage's CityCenter.

Keeping everyone involved on the same page from Day One to the Grand Opening was a monumental and exhausting task in itself. BlackBerrys became lifelines.

Randy Higgins, whose firm RDH & Associates was architect of record for Vdara's pool deck and the Gold Lounge inside Aria, says communication was vital, even with his minor roles in the grand project.

"We had day-to-day conversations with the concept designer and virtually day-to-day with the contractor," he says. "At one point we got 400 emails a





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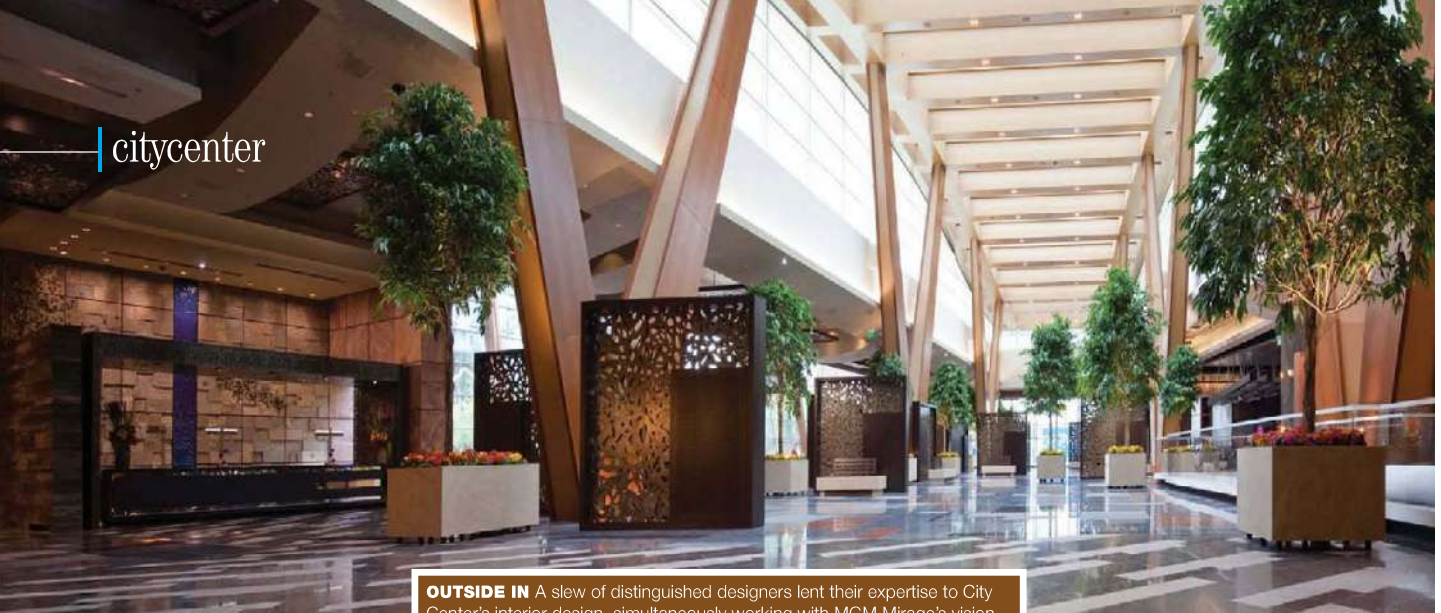
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**OUTSIDE IN** A slew of distinguished designers lent their expertise to City Center's interior design, simultaneously working with MGM Mirage's vision for an abstract park theme by bringing nature's elements indoors.



day, and everyone was copied on those.”

RDH's role as architect of record meant basically they were tasked with viewing a blueprint from the concept designer of what the project should look like, then making that rendering come to life. Architects of record are the

“nuts and bolts guys.”

“Take a look at the conceptual rendering versus what it looks like today and you would say we're about 95 percent on the mark,” says Thomas Czech, director of operations at Leo A Daly, who also served as architect of record for several parts of CityCenter, includ-

ing Aria. “It really is a tremendous challenge. Thousands of issues have to be dealt with.”

During planning stages, weekly trips across the country to meet with concept designers were required.

“There was a point where myself, as project manager, I was flying to New York once a week,” Czech says. “Implementing the plan of these 45 consultants is not an easy task, especially when you have a complex project. We're not talking about daily meetings, we're talking about hourly meetings.”

Of the hundreds of architects and contractors, if one piece of the puzzle makes a mistake, it causes a ripple effect and could result in faulty design. The delay of Harmon—a smaller boutique property within CityCenter that was supposed to open in December 2009 but was pushed to December

2010—provides an example.

Beyond Harmon, Czech and Leo A Daly were forced to suggest a different material for the exterior of several buildings, avoiding another potentially catastrophic mistake.

“The concept designers said, ‘listen, I think we ought to use a light product,’ then they started selecting colors. That's about where they stopped and where we took over,” Czech says. “There are five major sections of CityCenter that are all glass. We're in the middle of the desert. You take a look at the design architects and they're all European or international. You have to ask yourself if they've ever designed high-rise structures in the desert.”

Czech says initial materials caused an intensified reflection of light called “solar convergence,”

## Now open

Three hotels at CityCenter opened in early December:

- **Aria**, a casino-hotel designed by Pelli Clarke Pelli, featuring 4,004 guestrooms and 150,000 square feet of gaming
- **Mandarin Oriental Las Vegas**, an independently operated luxury property, featuring 392 guestrooms and 225 residences with a Las Vegas Blvd. address.
- **Vdara**, an all-suite hotel and spa, featuring 1,495 rooms
- **The Harmon**, a smaller boutique property, and after all four hotels are open to the public, CityCenter will be comprised of about 6,000 guestrooms.



Design:  
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## CityCenter highlights

- CityCenter will be comprised of about 6,000 guestrooms and nearly 2,400 residences. In comparison, MGM Grand is the largest property on The Strip, also boasting about 6,000 guestrooms.
- Aria, the only casino-hotel, serves as the connective tissue for CityCenter and is groundbreaking on many fronts. The casino space features work from 45 different interior designers; each eatery has its own distinct feel.
- Veer is made up of two towers, Veer East and Veer West, and is strictly residential space. It offers the most inexpensive units, starting at \$350,000 after a recent 30-percent reduction. About 60 percent of the residential units within CityCenter had committals in December, a spokesperson for MGM Mirage said.



**INTEGRATED DESIGN** Most of CityCenter's guestrooms feature connectivity that allows guests to control lights, drapes, music and television automatically. Designers had to take these features into consideration.

**“It was a great location, a great owner and a great operator. It was hard to go wrong on this project.”**

**Paul Katz**, president, Kohn Pedersen Fox

which could amplify the sun's heat by as much as four to five times by the time it reached a pool deck on ground level. It was the architect of record who was responsible for making suggestions on how to reduce that amplification, and Leadership in Energy and Environmen-

tal Design certifications added an additional hurdle by requiring certain materials be used.

For Paul Katz, president of New York-based Kohn Pedersen Fox, which designed the Mandarin Oriental Las Vegas inside CityCenter, the fact that many of the designers, architects and developers had worked together in the past eased the communication burden.

“We knew all the participants pretty well,” Katz says. “It's fun to work with people you know. They start to trust you and you can avoid any of the negative impressions.”

Katz says previous partnerships with MGM Mirage helped his firm better understand their LEED aspirations, and having done work for Mandarin Oriental

in the past helped him understand the brand's desire to reflect a certain culture.

“You have to have the best of both worlds: You have to provide the exclusivity of one of the greatest luxury brands—we conquered that with the intimate courtyard—but at the same time you're on one of the most vibrant streets in the world,” Katz says.

He says CityCenter will set a new standard for architecture in Sin City.

“If you're going to build a luxury hotel in Vegas, you really want to build the best 400 and the most luxurious 400 hotel rooms in the city,” he says. “The mix of luxury and convenience really shines through. It's a world class hotel that's only going to get better.”



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- The CHS Group was contracted to morph the total interior renovation of a former office building into a revolutionary mixed-use hotel/residence on the doorstep of lower Manhattan's famed financial district.
- A sculptural pearlescent steel and stone staircase is the central experience of the public spaces linking the Andaz Studio level to the lounge, bar and then to the restaurant.
- The lounge is paneled in two-tone bamboo, and the tabletops are made of veined marble. A floral design is hand-stenciled on the wall by the elevator bank.

- The Rockwell Group crafted a unique and personalized environment for guestrooms, each fit with custom furniture, artwork and accessories. The ambitious design called for an extra level of preparation by the CHS Group, requiring careful delivery and installation for each room.

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- 09  Destination Spa
- 13  Headquarters or Regional Office: Franchises, Chains, Referral/Management Organizations
- 14  Hotel Property/Real Estate Developers/Independent Developers

**If a hotel, resort or lodge, indicate the number of rooms:**  
 1  300 Rooms or More  
 2  100-299 Rooms  
 3  Under 100 Rooms

20  Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

30  Trade, Supplier, Dealer, Distributor or Manufacturer's Rep  
 50  Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which of the following best describes your title? (fill in ONE only)

- 001  Owner/President/CEO
- 002  Partner
- 003  Project Director/Manager
- 004  Purchasing Director/Manager
- 005  Architectural Director
- 006  Sr. Design Director
- 007  Other VP/Director/Manager
- 008  Interior Designer/Architect/Engineer
- 009  Other Design Personnel (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

010  Other Management Personnel (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

020  Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

For important free product/service information, circle the numbers that correspond to the ads you've seen in this issue.

101	120	139	158	177	196	215	234	253	272	291
102	121	140	159	178	197	216	235	254	273	292
103	122	141	160	179	198	217	236	255	274	293
104	123	142	161	180	199	218	237	256	275	294
105	124	143	162	181	200	219	238	257	276	295
106	125	144	163	182	201	220	239	258	277	296
107	126	145	164	183	202	221	240	259	278	297
108	127	146	165	184	203	222	241	260	279	298
109	128	147	166	185	204	223	242	261	280	299
110	129	148	167	186	205	224	243	262	281	300
111	130	149	168	187	206	225	244	263	282	301
112	131	150	169	188	207	226	245	264	283	302
113	132	151	170	189	208	227	246	265	284	303
114	133	152	171	190	209	228	247	266	285	304
115	134	153	172	191	210	229	248	267	286	305
116	135	154	173	192	211	230	249	268	287	306
117	136	155	174	193	212	231	250	269	288	307
118	137	156	175	194	213	232	251	270	289	308
119	138	157	176	195	214	233	252	271	290	309

**Fax back to: 416 620-9790**

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CIRCLE NO. 122





# Search Smarter with the HotelWorld Network Marketplace



Visit the HotelWorld Network Marketplace's decision-making tool and start your search: <http://www.jazdhotels.com/hotelworldnetworkmarketplace>

## RESOURCE GUIDE

### PRODUCTS

FRESH. EXOTIC. TANTALIZING.

*Tommy Bahama*

800-541-6775  
EssentialAmenities.com

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ELAINE SMITH  
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CIRCLE NO. 133

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CIRCLE NO. 134

**Aceray 2010 Catalog is here!**

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Call 303.733.3404 or visit [www.aceray.com](http://www.aceray.com)

CIRCLE NO. 135



### A Disappearing Television.

The Premier Series TV Mirror features innovative mirror technology, using our proprietary glass. Our HRHC (High-Reflective, High Contrast) mirror multi-layer substrate provides a natural reflection of color and skin tones no different than a traditional mirror. The HRHC mirror technology, along with LG's Digital Hi Def LCD Technology, yields the brightest TV Mirror available, and offers the clearest and most vivid color. Why settle for viewing a HD program through a low-resolution window? Blue Vision is your best and brightest TV Mirror solution.

[www.bluevisiontvmirror.com](http://www.bluevisiontvmirror.com)



CIRCLE NO. 136

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CIRCLE NO. 137



CIRCLE NO. 138



CIRCLE NO. 139



CIRCLE NO. 140





Paul Priestman directs the innovative and space-saving design at Priestmangoode, which most recently designed cost-effective guestrooms for Accor's ETAP and Motel 6 brands. The new proptypes are currently rolling out across the global portfolios of each brand. Priestmangoode currently is working with Norwegian Cruise Line to introduce a budget cabin concept.

**Currently reading**  
"A Business Miscellany"  
by the Economist  
"Chinese Symbolism and Art Motifs"  
by C.A.S. Williams

**Music playlist**  
Boo Hewerdine

**Favorite artists**  
Henry Moore and  
Alberto Giacometti



# Paul Priestman

FOUNDING DIRECTOR, PRIESTMANGOODE

**TO ME, HOSPITALITY MEANS** service, comfort and location.

**MY FRIENDS DESCRIBE ME AS** a perfectionist who never stops.

**I GET CREATIVE INSPIRATION FROM** new technologies, natural environments, countryside, seascapes and clouds.

**MY FAVORITE HOTEL IS** The Mandarin Oriental in Hong Kong. The service is always perfect and the hotel has a wonderful sense of place. I like to know and feel where I am in the world; I am not a fan of international hotels that are the same the world over.

**THE MOST IMPORTANT GUESTROOM AMENITIES TO ME ARE** bed, bathroom, TV/internet, in that order.

**MY DESIGN IS INFLUENCED BY** always wanting to make things better. Design for me is not just a styling exercise.

**OVERDONE IN DESIGN TODAY IS** boutique style. All that over-styling drives me mad.

**TODAY'S HOT COLOR PALETTE IS** white, but with RGB LED lighting giving any color you like in the spectrum, but with no need to redecorate.



**MY FAVORITE MATERIALS TO WORK WITH ARE** form, light and texture.

**MY ADVICE TO YOUNG HOTELIERS IS** get your acoustics right.

**THE MOST IMPRESSIVE ARCHITECTURAL SPACE I'VE SEEN IS** The Pantheon in Rome. I was once there in a rainstorm, seeing the rain cascading hundreds of feet through the opening in the center of the

dome and on to the marble floor below. It was stunning. Built in 120 A.D.! How many buildings built today will last that long?

**THE STRANGEST OR MOST EMBARRASSING THING THAT'S EVER HAPPENED TO ME ON A BUSINESS TRIP IS**

waking in the middle of the night in a hotel and accidentally leaving my hotel room thinking it was the bathroom and only realizing my mistake upon hearing the door click behind me. Not wearing very much and with no key, what would you do?

**MY GREATEST CAREER ACHIEVEMENT IS** planting 40,000 trees in the heart of the British countryside.



**QUESTEX MEDIA**

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CIRCLE NO. 110

GLOBAL  
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# Green Room



## At LG, We Believe That Life's Good ...When It's Green.

And we are committed to improving product development, manufacturing and usage to provide our lodging industry clients with innovative products that meet the ever-growing demand for eco-friendly technologies. Many of our hospitality units include features that reduce power consumption and increase energy cost savings on a per-room basis.

Our EcoSmart™ line-up has a variety of green features that include:

### **Energy Star® 3.0 Qualified\***

meets current reduction requirements of energy consumption

### **Dynamic Power Savings\***

allow televisions to automatically reduce power consumption while maximizing picture performance

### **Static Power Savings\***

set picture brightness at the preferred power consumption level to reduce power and increase energy savings

### **Intelligent Sensor\***

monitors the guest room's light conditions and optimizes picture quality to help save energy

With LG, your properties can be more cost-effective because our products are more energy-efficient. Better for your customers, better for you, better for business...naturally.



The LG700H pictured above is ENERGY STAR 3.0 Qualified.



**LG**

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\*Green features vary by model. See individual spec sheet for more information.

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