

Greater Chicago Edition

COMMERCIAL Builder/Architect

Special Feature



**Respecting Each Client's
Uniqueness**

Respecting Each Client's Uniqueness

By Mary Gervasi

With a keen eye toward innovative design and meticulous detail, the Linden Group, Inc. (LGI) has been fulfilling clients' building and construction dreams since 1978. But far from being a company that just makes attractive buildings, LGI is a multi-faceted full-service architecture, interior design and land-planning company with a proven track record for imaginative, inspiring creations and success on every level of a project — while at the same time remaining budget conscious and completing jobs on time. LGI takes pride in meeting clients' needs and expectations and then surpassing them. The firm has a long list of repeat customers from both the public and private sectors and regularly receives referrals, recommendations and high satisfaction ratings from its clients, as well as awards, accolades and praise from their peers.

"We want to make our client a success," states William F.



Left to Right: Dave Rosenstein, Principal; William Matthys, President; Grant Currier, Vice President; Tom Perrone, Vice President.

On the Cover: The Linden Group, Inc. poses at the Patrick Haley Mansion in Joliet, IL. The Linden Group received a 2006 Excellence in Design award from the AIA/EIC for their design of the Patrick Haley Mansion. Pictured: (top row, left to right) Jose Magan, Tim Hayes, John Benware, Martin Francis, Ron Weszelits, Steve Francis, Stacy Burris, Trip Hummel, Dennis Magdato; (bottom row, left to right) Gabriel Hocking, Grant Currier, William Matthys, Tom Perrone, Dave Rosenstein, Michael Matthys. Not pictured: Srb Krstich, Terri Mendendorp, Alicia Dunning and Josh Klein.

Matthys, Linden Group company President, "As our clients have grown, Linden has grown."

Headquartered in Homewood, IL (a suburb outside of Chicago), with a staff of 20, the company has a thorough grasp on the difference between good work and great workmanship — and has demonstrated it through a portfolio of projects. Although they have

The Holiday Inn Select, Bedford Park, IL. Construction manager: Trapani Construction Company.



The Medinah Shriners temple in Addison, IL.
General contractor: Pepper Construction



PHOTO BY BALLOGG PHOTOGRAPHY

strong regional ties, LGI has successfully completed and is working on a host of jobs across the United States and Central America. The firm has taken on many assignments of various types, including: municipal buildings, public recreation facilities, banks, hotels and resorts, corporate and industrial spaces, restaurants, banquet rooms, riverboat casino terminals, retail centers, multifamily residential buildings and health facilities. The principals feel that each type of project has provided a broad frame of reference and instilled respect for the uniqueness of each client, each project, each user and each solution. Each is a testament to the firm's service mentality and the customer's satisfaction.

"Linden has diversity grounded in multi markets," says company Vice President, Grant W. Currier. "Linden started out in the residential market. From that, we learned that clients value residential

touches in a corporate or commercial design setting. They want comfort and unexpected design details."

One of the markets that helped enhance the company's cross-functional design capabilities is hospital and health care construction. The company has done projects at Mount Sinai Hospital in Chicago, Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn and Silver Cross Hospital in Joliet. The firm also has been very active in the hospitality industry. LGI, working with the Weglarz Company, provided the master planning and worked on three of the seven hotels located in the Chicago Midway Airport Hotel Center in Bedford Park — the Holiday Inn Express, Holiday Inn Select and Marriott Fairfield. Currently LGI is developing design documents for their fourth project at Midway, another Holiday Inn property. The company also designed an upscale six-story Residence Inn to blend seam-



ideas into the project. I started working with them in the 1970s on condos in Crestwood, then in Oak Lawn and Chicago Ridge. I recommend them every chance I get.”

Donald Helmig, Chairman of the Concept Committee for the Medinah Shriners, offers positive comments as well, “Linden Group was outstanding — a hands-on, very dedicated, hard working and professional architectural firm that had an open mind and was capable of understanding our needs; they helped us come in under budget and ahead of schedule. We receive compliments on the building design/interior design and quality of product they selected.”

Helmig should know. When the Medinah Shriners decided to move from their historic temple on the near North side of Chicago to suburban Addison, they contacted LGI. The original building was considered to be one the finest examples of Middle Eastern-Moorish style in the country. So LGI’s challenge was to respect the Moroccan influence of the Chicago shrine while creating a new, state-of-the-art facility that would serve the organization’s needs for the new millennium. They developed a spacious and romantic, single-story structure complete with Middle Eastern-inspired arched windows and doorways, exotic light fixtures, domed architecture and artistic detailing reminiscent of Morocco itself. At the same time they provided the Shriners with a new building with open terraces, classrooms and event facilities, and other features that could meet their current and future needs.

Similarly, the Patrick Haley Mansion expansion in Joliet required an aggressive design that would meet the operator’s banquet and catering needs, but called for a gentle hand that would make the addition seem like it had always been part of the building. It was a tenuous line to walk, but LGI achieved it. The mansion had been built in 1891 for Patrick Haley, an Irish immigrant, mayor of Joliet and industrialist. For more than 100 years, it had served as a residence and, in later years, adapted for wedding banquets and other functions successfully. However, the small Victorian rooms were limiting. After a number of years, it was decided that a dramatic permanent structure should be built to accommodate large parties. LGI’s goal was to create an addition that would not overwhelm the original H.H. Richardson-

lessly in the upscale Chicago suburb of Oak Brook — working with White Lodging of Merrillville, IN.

RESPECTING EACH CLIENT’S UNIQUENESS

According to longtime customer, Ed McGowan, President of Edon Construction & Dremco Builders, “I worked with the Linden Group on a number of projects including the expansion of the Empress Casino and a new hotel in Joliet. They are great people and easy to work with, open minded; they listen and incorporate your

40 Kansas, Frankfort, IL. General contractor: Rowhouse Ltd.



PHOTO BY E3 PRODUCTION



1. Clubhouse, 2. Amphitheater, 3. Ice Skating Lagoon, 4. Sculpture Walk, 5. Steel Bridge, 6. Wood Bridge, 7. Butterfly Garden, 8. Dwarf Conifer Garden, 9. Driving Range, 10. 9 Hole Golf Course, 11. Dog Park

Detail of the future Centennial Park, Munster, IN. General contractor: Larson Danielson Construction.

style building, but rather to enhance it. The expansion captured the original ambiance and emulated key features of the mansion while introducing a new conservatory component and support facilities that could accommodate up to 300 people. The Linden Group received a number of awards for this project, including an American Institute of Architects (AIA) 2006 Excellence in Design award, as well as the 2005 Illinois Indiana Masonry Council (IIMC) Excellence in Masonry Design — Contemporary Rehab.

BALANCE AND INTEGRITY

The Linden Group was also hired for the 40 Kansas Project. Again, the firm demonstrated its creativity and expertise by blending fresh design, development and construction skills with the integrity and craftsmanship of the existing structures. Built in the early 1900s, the previous building was part of a strong German immigrant farming community in Frankfort, that to this day still exhibits a quaint hometown atmosphere. LGI's task was to design and construct a new two-story mixed-use commercial and business structure that looked like it was from the turn of the century. They needed to incorporate classic details, period touches and materials and workmanship that were reminiscent and fully in keeping with the quality and look of the original building.

The end result complimented the existing architecture of the neighborhood and provided excellent exposure for a destination restaurant. The architects used a variety of brick masonry period elevations to compose the two street facades and Kansas Silverdale limestone accents in a variety of finishes to strengthen the structure's theme. LGI also mixed in some special touches, such as projected balconies over the sidewalks and artistic stone sign panels to complete the project. (The Linden Group received a number of awards for this project as well, the 2005 IIMC — Excellence in Masonry — Best in Brick Gold Award, as well as an Association of Licensed Architects — Design Award 2006 Award of Merit, in recognition of superior achievement and professional design excellence.)

In Munster, IN, LGI was called upon for the Centennial Park Development Project. As Matthys described, "We turned Centennial Park from a landfill into a wonderful community park experience, a 250-acre re-use project with clubhouse and nine-hole golf course." The assignment was to redevelop a brownfield site (landfill), into a 12-acre lake, parking, path system and golf course. LGI introduced a 140' span pedestrian bridge, emergent aquatic plants along the shore line and a public art sculpture walk, as well as created a clubhouse/social center, catering kitchen, grill restaurant, pro shop, amphitheater with partially covered outdoor performance stage, and park path system, which



PHOTO BY BALLOGG PHOTOGRAPHY

The Diamond VIP Lounge at the Horseshoe Casino in Hammond, IN. General contractor: Pepper Construction

consists of approximately three miles of walking trails.

After completion, Centennial Park will qualify for prestigious silver certification rating from Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating system, one of the first projects in Northwest Indiana to achieve it! (The silver rating recognizes outstanding performance in the five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.)

For the Linden Group, understanding customer needs doesn't stop at the drafting table. They realize that current and potential trends in their clients' marketplace are almost as important as the design itself. For instance, as cheap flights to Las Vegas lure Chicagoans to the desert and patrons are exposed to high-end, luxurious hotels, hospitality companies across the country are faced with a dilemma. Lose your customers or raise the quality of your facility so it's comparable to hotels in Las Vegas. LGI clients have nothing to worry about. The Linden Group appreciates the balance between a warm "home-like" environment, and maintaining a strong emphasis on elegance, pampering and extravagance.

Currier and Matthys note, "Hotel guests like residential touches,



PHOTO BY LGI ILLUSTRATIONS

Detail of the future River Mountain Lodge in Basalt, CO. General contractor: Meghan Development

but want to be wowed. Hotel guests expect sophisticated design from the front door to the guest room."

LGI has completed and is in the process of working on a number of projects that focus on this balance: the Empress/Horseshoe/Argosy Casino renovation in Joliet and the Diamond VIP Lounge and Horseshoe Casino renovation in Hammond, which features a warm, homey, classic design mingled with the Arts & Crafts-inspired décor, rich stone floors, artfully crafted stained glass and views of Lake Michigan and the Chicago skyline. LGI is also working on the Ara Macao-Resort and Marina in Belize, Central America. It will include a luxury hotel with condominium suites, a lavish spa, restaurants, retail shops, tennis courts, swimming pools and a signature golf course, plus a grand casino and nightclub shaped in the form of a classic Mayan pyramid.

As client Joe Guzewicz, Project Director for Harrah's Entertainment Inc., states, "Horseshoe selected the Linden Group to handle a \$3.5 million renovation that entailed converting two areas into elegant lounges for our VIP customers ... Since the two lounge areas officially opened in early 2006, we have heard nothing but rave reviews from our customers."

This careful attention to detail and fresh design is certainly one reason that the Linden Group has been so effective in the architecture and design industry. But a large part of the success can be attributed to the company staff as well. Matthys and Currier agree. "Linden believes staff attitude should be balanced with talent. Everybody has something to say and contribute. We believe in employees having fun and entrust our people at Linden to do great jobs." Something they've been doing for over 28 years. The Linden Group inspires and demonstrates excellence on a continual basis.

LGI's diversity, adept skill at taking design and construction beyond functionality into innovation and beauty, blended with a portfolio of incredibly executed projects, a strong client base, exemplary reputation and talented employees, ensures the firm's continued success and growth far into the future.

For further information on the Linden Group, Inc., visit www.lindengroupinc.com ■



1. 9-Hole Golf Course, 2. Golf Club House, 3. Casino / Restaurant / Nightclub, 4. Reception Center, 5. Village Retail Shops, 6. Amphitheater, 7. Hotel, 8. Restaurant, 9. Condos, 10. Villas, 11. Townhomes, 12. Commercial

Detail of the future ARA MACAO-Resort & Marina in Belize, C.A. Triventre: Linden Group, Inc.; Aria Group Architects, Inc.; Strukture Architects, Ltd. General contractor: Iovest Development, LLC