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**RSP Architects Announces Project News**

*Radisson Plaza Hotel Opens in Tianjin*

*Hiawatha Public Works Facility Breaks New Ground in Reusability*

*Treasure Island Named One of the 'Sexiest' Casinos*

Minneapolis (28 July 2009) – RSP Architects announced an interesting mix of project news including a new hotel in China, the City of Minneapolis' first LEED Gold project, and the firm's first-ever "sexiest" distinction for a casino design.

**Radisson Plaza Hotel Opens in Tianjin**

The RSP-designed Radisson Plaza Hotel Tianjin opened recently in Tianjin, China. The 5-star, 270-room hotel is a joint investment between Tianjin Urban Construction Group and the First Eastern Investment Group, Hong Kong, and is operated by Carlson Hotels Worldwide.

The high rise, fashioned after a lotus flower, is located in the new financial hub of the Hedong district. RSP used a mix of gray granite and metal and glass panels to create a highly unexpected architectural experience. As distinctive as it is during the day, the view of the artfully lit Radisson Plaza Hotel at night is said to be particularly striking.

According to Jean-Marc Busato, managing director – Asia Pacific, Carlson Hotels Worldwide, "The 23-story high-rise building with its unique, iconic design and architectural style, is expected to become a landmark destination for visitors and a symbol of Tianjin's transformation into a thriving financial center for business travelers from around the world."



### **Hiawatha Public Works Facility to be First Gold LEED Project for City of Minneapolis**

RSP is designing the new Hiawatha Public Works Facility, which is intended to be the City of Minneapolis' first LEED Gold Certified project. The June groundbreaking marked the first City facility to be designed and constructed in compliance with Resolution 2006R-381, which adopts LEED standards for planning, design, construction and commissioning of all municipal facilities financed by the City.

The Hiawatha project involves redevelopment, new construction, and demolition of buildings and structures on the city-owned site. The Hiawatha facility's LEED features include energy-efficient systems such as geothermal heating and cooling and a white roof. The facility will reuse brick from the site's previous buildings, wood from area Dutch Elm trees, and decking from the former Lowry Avenue bridge that will be repurposed as fencing.

Scheduled to open in spring 2010, the facility will provide functional working space for almost 200 employees, including approximately 32,000 square feet of office space; 26,000 square feet of shop and interior storage space; and more than 250,000 square feet of yard space. The project will provide office, shop, storage and operational needs for several Minneapolis Public Works divisions, allowing employees and functions to consolidate for more efficiency.

### **Treasure Island Named One of the 'Sexiest' Casinos in North America**

In an evaluation of more than 360 Native American casinos in North America by *North American Casino (NAC)* magazine, Treasure Island Resort and Casino in Red Wing, Minnesota, placed third on a list of the top 10 Sexiest Casinos. The award was based on the casino's architecture and design, both inside and outside of the casino, the hotel, entertainment, restaurants, golf course, gaming facilities and several other categories.

RSP designed the \$50 million Treasure Island renovation which was completed in the fall of 2008. The project, which helped establish Treasure Island as the premier destination resort casino in the Midwest, features 480 luxurious rooms and suites, a new 3,000 seat event center, and the 24-lane Island Xtreme Bowl center. According to *NAC* editor Melanie Dellas, "A sexy casino is one that leaves a person feeling the gaming experience from head to toe. It is a casino that takes your imagination to places it's never been



while touching on all the senses.” Treasure Island was the highest rated casino in the Midwest and the only Minnesota casino to make the list.

### **About RSP Architects**

RSP Architects was established 30 years ago and now has approximately 240 employees in its offices in Minneapolis and Rochester, Minnesota; Phoenix, Arizona; San Diego, California, and Tianjin, China. Its headquarters is in the historic Grain Belt Brewhouse, an award-winning renovation and adaptive reuse project in Minneapolis.

RSP maintains a diverse practice with architectural expertise in corporate, healthcare, higher education, hospitality, institutional, manufacturing and research, retail, and government projects in the U.S. and internationally. In addition, RSP i-SPACE® is a proprietary service that offers unique insights into a firm’s real estate assets, while RSP Dreambox, a consultancy within RSP, takes an experiential approach to design, strategy, innovation and multimedia architectural services.

RSP clients include Ameriprise Financial, American Express Company, Arizona State University, Comerica, Inc., GMAC ResCap, Boston Scientific, Madison Marquette, the Mayo Clinic and Foundation, Tianjin Haihe Development Commission, Travelers, Target Corporation, UnitedHealth Group, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the University of Minnesota, and Wells Fargo & Company.

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