



START IN INDIAN COUNTRY: RSP has been collaborating with tribal communities for 10 years. RSP also has staff members that have been associate members of NIGA for over 15 years and have experience with over 34 tribal entities.

FIRST TRIBAL PROJECT: Isleta Pueblo Fun Zone in 2005. The existing structure was a pre-engineered, clear span metal building of approximately 35,000 sq. ft. The entire building interior was gutted and reconfigured to 24 lanes of bowling, an arcade area, laser tag, billiards, food and liquor venues, and a series of community meeting/party rooms.

MOST MEMORABLE PROJECT: We have an eight year long strategic relationship with the Prairie Island Indian Community at Treasure Island Resort and Casino. We have recently finished a new high-end steakhouse and are in the construction phase of a new buffet and waterpark that have set a new contemporary design direction for their entire facility.

We completed an 88,000 sq. ft. 5-story hotel expansion for the Ak-Chin Community that consists of 152 rooms, a new entry lobby and double the amount of available rooms for the hotel. The architectural concept for the hotel expansion was inspired by the landscape of the Sonoran Desert as well as the agricultural and art traditions of the Ak-Chin community.

RSP worked with the Gila River Indian Community to design a new 134-room 6-story hotel branded Sheraton Four Points that was completed in 2014. The 75,00 sq. ft. hotel was site adapted to include a bar & restaurant, grab and go pantry, indoor meeting space, fitness center and outdoor pool and sun deck. The development provided new amenities and opportunities to compliment the golf course and created multiple venues for booking indoor and outdoor events, generating additional revenue, new jobs and acted as a catalyst for additional redevelopment of the surrounding area.

Just completed is an RSP designed Vegas-style casino – a flagship entertainment destination – in the middle of Washington State. Located 200 + miles northeast of Seattle, the new casino features a 56,000 sq. ft. gaming floor with 500 electronic machines, a variety of restaurants, a nightclub, and an 80-room hotel with meeting space, an indoor pool and a spa. Opened in summer 2015, with Womer & Associates as the executive architect, the project is a vibrant, contemporary resort for the Confederated Tribes of Colville.

CRITICAL ASPECTS: Working with Native communities begins by understanding the importance of sovereignty. The economic developments undertaken by the Nation, while important individually, are all a means to increase the economic, political, spiritual and ecological independence of the commu-

nity and its people. To be entrusted with the design of such important work is a task we take to heart.

BALANCING DESIGN WITH ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS: Often the projects we work on with our tribal partners are some of the biggest investments they will ever make. We therefore take great care to put dollars where they will see the greatest ROI. This begins with smart master planning that thinks ahead to future expansions and related opportunities. It includes knowing back of house, parking and delivery so that they get an efficient structure that does not waste money on spaces their guests will not see. Ultimately it emphasizes a material richness and experience that guests will come to appreciate, where they will touch and feel materials and be engaged anew each time they visit.

TRENDS: The future is really exciting. Not only will we be seeing continued renovation and development, we will also see Indian Country moving into new aspects of gaming and technological interface as their clientele evolves. This will mean creating spaces where guests have the freedom to unlock a gaming experience and integrate it into other more resort focused amenities of their property. We will also see the expansion of tribal development outside the reservation as communities seek to capitalize on money making ventures such as corporate hotels, data centers, energy, multi-use developments and beyond.

THE FUTURE: RSP, with four offices in North America and 12 diverse practice studios is ready to grow with Indian Country as it looks for opportunities both on and outside tribal lands.



Treasure Island Tado Steakhouse - Welch, MN
Photo: Brandon Stengel / Farm Kids Studios



Hotel expansion at Harrah's Ak-Chin – Maricopa, AZ Photos: Philip Prowse

RSP ARCHITECTS



12 Tribes Resort Casino - Omak, WA Photos: Peter Malinowski / InSite