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DAS ARCHITECTS TO CREATE “WORLD CAFÉ LIVE ®” **A UNIQUE MUSIC VENUE AND RESTAURANT**

PHILADELPHIA, PA -- Susan M. Davidson, IDC and David A. Schultz, AIA, principals of nationally distinguished **DAS Architects**, are proud to announce that they have been hired by Hal Real, president of Real Entertainment Group, to create **World Café Live ®**, a live music venue and restaurant to be located at 3025 Walnut Street. The impressive project will be the new home of its namesake, the award winning, nationally syndicated World Café radio program that features celebrated and emerging music artists on WXPN-FM (88.5).

The venue will be the first of its kind, to combine live radio broadcasts, interviews and performances in two live music venues: **Upstairs at World Cafe Live**, a contemporary café and bar; and **Downstairs at World Café Live**, an acoustically superior concert and dining facility. The building will also house WXPN's new broadcast studios, offices and radio-related retail space. World Café Live is scheduled to open in the fall of 2004.

Situated in an historic, 38,000 square foot 1920's art deco building, currently listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, DAS Architects have begun forging a design scheme that will synthesize the building's existing architectural details with creative, contemporary, and multi-cultural elements.

From the entrance on the bustling Walnut Street bridge, patrons will enter World Café Live through the second floor, where they will be welcomed by the warm, intimate and inspirational atmosphere of **Upstairs Live**, a 100-seat café, bar and performance space. Created largely from all natural, authentic materials, the space will feature handsome mahogany paneling, offset by colorized cork, rustic metal, ethnic-inspired woven carpets and art-carved wood elements. Cast ceramic pots, specially outfitted as decorative wall sconces will hang from large piers, accentuating the ceiling's abstract, primitive color scheme. A large plaster cast bar will line the north wall, and will be visible from Walnut Street. Soft sofa-like banquettes and wood crafted chairs with custom designed, resin-coated carpet patterns for table tops will provide additional seating. Additional accoutrements will include omnipresent radio icons such as the telltale “On Air” light-up sign in the stairs and lobby. Large bistro windows facing Walnut Street allow passers-by to look in on live performances and interviews.

Throughout the day, Upstairs Live patrons can enjoy coffee, cappuccino, espresso and light fare while taking in all the excitement of sitting up close and personal with World Cafe host David Dye and his guests as they tape selected programs and segments from a glass enclosed, fully functional radio studio. After 4 pm, a bar will offer an extensive list of cocktails, wine and spirits. In addition to guests of the World Café program, Upstairs Live will also play host to daily performances from local up-and-coming and established artists and performers.

A large open atrium will give patrons a view of what's happening below. On one side, they will see live taping in the WXPB recording studio and on the other they will peer through one-way glass windows into the first floor Main Stage.

DAS will also create **Downstairs Live**, a large, versatile multi-level space that will serve up to 350-seated guests for dinner and a show or up to 1,000 standing-room only. The 24' high ceilings will be incorporated into the warm industrial motif that DAS has planned. The emphasis of the design will create a sense of intimacy, or as Schultz explains, "the perfect environment for enjoying live music."

"It's really important for us to create a very intimate vibe in this room," says Schultz. "We've worked out the shape of the room and the sight lines so everyone will have a good seat."

The built-in stage and backdrop will change to accommodate and accentuate each performance. Exposed lighting grids and theatrical lighting fixtures will hang from above. Cast resin sconces along the warm colored walls will provide additional lighting.

DAS is currently working with Clair Brothers, one of the country's most prestigious sound and light companies, to develop a state-of-the-art sound and lighting system. Metropolitan Acoustics has also been hired to integrate "100 percent acoustic dead room" specifications into the DAS Architects design. Acoustic panels and sound baffles disguised by a fabric palette of purple, gold and teal tones are being incorporated into the overall atmosphere. Along with hosting a variety of nationally recognized artists and performers, Downstairs Live, will be available for live radio and television broadcasts, as well as private parties, corporate events and educational programs.

Reminiscent of a cabaret, Downstairs Live will also offer a full dinner menu, so guests can enjoy dining while watching performances by new artists as well as famous musicians. A mezzanine level, with complete access to kitchen and bar facilities, will be available for VIPs and private groups.

Currently celebrating its 11th Anniversary, the World Cafe is distributed nationally to more than 160 stations. Host David Dye has introduced the nation to an eclectic mix of blues, rock, country, world and folk. Each show features live performances, interviews and segments on books, movies, television and plays that are related to music. WXPB-FM is a public radio station run by the University of Pennsylvania that features the World Cafe Monday through Friday, from 2 to 4 pm and Saturdays from 12 noon to 1 pm.

DAS, who recently completed the renovation of the world-renowned Le Bec-Fin in Philadelphia, PA, is highly esteemed for its work in creating more than 70 prestigious restaurants including: bliss, a casually elegant restaurant with a spa-like atmosphere; Moro, a contemporary Northern Italian bistro in Wilmington, DE; and Rat's.

DAS offers a diverse range of architectural, interior design and consulting services such as space planning, site analysis, theme development and project management. Since 1985, DAS has successfully completed a wide variety of projects that include public spaces, corporate businesses, law firms, retail spaces, hotels and private residences.

Davidson and Schultz are regularly featured among the country's top designers in publications such as Hospitality Design, Nation' Restaurant News, Contract Design, Chef Magazine, Restaurants USA, Retail Design and Interiors.

The offices of DAS are located in the heart of downtown Philadelphia, at 8 Penn Center, Suite 100. For more information, please call 215.751.9008 or visit the web site www.dasarchitects.com.

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