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DAS ARCHITECTS DESIGN CREATES 'BLISS' IN PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA, PA -- DAS Architects, one of the nation's leading design firms known for its hospitality, retail, corporate and residential projects, is pleased to announce details of its latest restaurant, **bliss**, which opened its doors in November 2003.

For this stunning two-story, 90-seat restaurant, bar, lounge and outdoor café located at 220 South Broad Street, along Philadelphia's bustling Avenue of the Arts, the DAS team developed a design scheme to foster a heavenly, casually elegant environment, in which guests can indulge their earthly desires on contemporary fare prepared by award-winning chef **Francesco Martorella**, while bliss' spa-like atmosphere envelops them with a calming sense of tranquility. Like gentle waves lapping against the sandy beach, bliss' interior is adorned with watery colored mosaics fashioned from glass stones and highlighted by shimmering crystalline accents. The blue terrazzo floor delicately meets the rich cut oak paneling and brushed stainless steel trim.

Through a row of large storefront windows, adorned with iridescent silk drapery, passersby can gaze into the cool and calming oceanic atmosphere inside. Upon entering guest are surrounded by grainy sand-toned wood, reminiscent of coastal environs. Through this foyer, guests will be greeted at the hostess station, which is constructed of the same wood and illuminated by a back-lit panel.

Further facilitating bliss' prevailing placid ambiance, a striking series of backlit images depicting an Australian sunset hang from the wall opposite the entrance. Guests can enjoy a casual drink or dine on light fare while seated at the first floor's back bar. The ten-seat bar features an alabaster-colored granite top highlighted. The seats are fashioned from oak and topped with silver blue and amber patterned silk. Above hangs an illuminated silk box, which casts a mellow glow over the bar. Adjacent to the bar are three banquettes upholstered in sand colored fabric with seat tops wrapped in leather. A partially open kitchen gives guests a view of bliss' skilled culinary staff at work through two large pick up windows.

Upstairs is a 36 seat mezzanine dining room. A blue, floral striped fabric wrapped backdrop

offsets a large honey-toned leather banquette that runs the length of the mezzanine. Moon shaped sconces flank either side of the banquette to provide diners with subtle mood lighting. Additional seating at tables constructed from oak and surrounded by chairs with blue mohair velvet seats and backed with gold and floral embroidery.

Founded by Susan M. Davidson, IDC and David A. Schultz, AIA in 1990, DAS offers a full range of architectural, interior design and procurement services. The talented staff of DAS is highly-esteemed for their work in creating more than 70 prestigious restaurants including: Le Bec-Fin, a top- to-bottom renovation of one of the country's most acclaimed French restaurants; Moro, a stylish chef-owned restaurant in Wilmington, DE; the award-winning Novelty Restaurant, in Old City Philadelphia; and The Scotland Run Country Club, in Williamstown, NJ. DAS is currently working on significant and exciting projects such as: The World Café, a 20,000 square foot live music performance and dinner theater at the University of Pennsylvania and Lambertville Inn, a 17,000 square foot resort, spa and conference center.

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 at www.dasarchitects.com.

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