

Fogo de Chão Nationwide



Client: Fogo de Chão

Location/Architect: Chicago - Lieber Cooper Architects
Washington, D.C. - Adamstein & Demetriou
Philadelphia - DAS Architects
Minneapolis - Shea Architects
Baltimore - The Design Authority
Austin - The Design Authority
Indianapolis - Rowland Design, Inc.
Miami Beach - Charles H. Benson & Assoc.
Scottsdale - Fitch Architects
Kansas City - Nearing Staats Prelogar & Jones
Atlanta - Fogo de Chão In-House Architectural
Houston - Jacobs, Carter Burgess

After successfully completing the Fogo de Chão Restaurant in Chicago's River North neighborhood in 2002, ICI hoped to do more work for the Brazilian company. Their concept for a fine dining establishment with a Brazilian churrascaria steakhouse theme, fit right in with ICI's experience completing theme-based restaurants and entertainment facilities.

When Fogo de Chao contacted ICI to discuss working with them on a new restaurant in Washington D.C., we were honored to have an opportunity to begin a relationship that has produced more than a dozen successful projects.

"They felt," according to Bruce Bronge, President of ICI, "that we understood what they were about. They realized what high-level construction management services could do for them."



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Chicago –

This project, International Contractors' first for Fogo de Chão, encompassed the rehabilitation of a former office supply company – a combination retail and warehouse space – in the River North neighborhood.

The build-out of this 19,250 SF, barrel-roofed building included extensive structural renovation. The entryway is beneath a 35-foot-tall, 6,000 pound, concrete tower that required the walls to be reinforced with steel beams. The dazzling entry tower houses an authentic fogo de chão, the type of ground fire traditionally used for cooking meat in Southern Brazil. The exterior of the building is further distinguished by its colorful display of stone and tile finishes.

The kitchen, at 3,200 SF, features a rotisserie grille, salad, meat and dessert preparation areas, and large meat and produce coolers. Other interior features include an 8' waterfall feature, dramatic lighting, dark woods, natural polished stones and large murals depicting Brazilian Gaucho culture. The dining room seats 320 people, offers a semi-private dining area for 65 guests, and a private dining room that seats 40.

Washington, DC –

ICI's second project for Fogo de Chão is located in the historic Evening Star Building of Washington, DC, five blocks from the White House. This two-level, 17,000 SF, restaurant was the first project ICI completed as Fogo de Chão's Construction Manager. We assisted the Owner with architectural selection, managed the proposal and selection process and held the contract of the selected firm, Adamstein & Demetriou.

Because of the building's historical value and prominence, design was subject to more than the usual agencies. The Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB), the National Capitol Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts, all had to approve plans for the building.

Two floors of space afford the restaurant space for two separate dining areas and a soaring wine cellar. To accommodate dining on two floors, ICI installed two separate grills and two, 26-foot-long custom-made salad bars. Hanging light fixtures over both dining rooms create a soft light, inviting guests to enjoy an indulgent experience.

As guests approach the building, they are greeted by a Beaux-Arts style façade, alluring them into a beautiful space featuring large murals depicting ranch life in Southern Brazil.



Philadelphia –

The Fogo de Chão project ICI completed in Philadelphia was also uniquely challenging due to the historic nature of the existing building. The scope of work for the project required incorporating typical Brazilian interior fundamentals, while retaining unique elements of the original structure which were characteristic of Philadelphia architecture 90 years ago.

ICI was able to restore much of the historic interior millwork, particularly the ornate columns stretching the full height of 20 foot ceilings. Where elements were not restorable, ICI was able to create new and matching millwork to the extent that the difference is not visible to the naked eye.

ICI was also able to restore 19 of the 20 French-cut, antique, hand-blown chandeliers that are worth approximately \$25,000 each. Each was removed, cleaned, repaired and reinstalled with great care.

The restaurant is located in the former J.E. Caldwell & Company Jewelers at the corner of Chestnut and Juniper Streets, scene of Rocky Balboa (Sylvester Stallone) purchasing a watch for his beloved Adrian (Talia Shire) in the 1979 filming of Rocky II.



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Minnesota –

The Fogo de Chão in Minneapolis, MN, is located in the famous Hennepin Theatre District at City Center. International Contractors, Inc. completed the build-out of this 9,700 SF space in 23 weeks. Particularly challenging was the installation of a striking new storefront on two, 2-story, elevations, totaling almost 14,000 SF, during a brutal Minnesota winter.

Being located within a fully operational shopping mall, and with parking garage floors directly above and below the space, ICI was faced with multiple challenges. For instance, the standard charcoal grill used in all previous locations could not be installed because the kitchen did not have space for the exhaust filtration unit. ICI met this challenge by recommending the use of a gas grill, the first of its kind to be used in a Fogo de Chão Restaurant. Additionally, as a scheduling and coordination concern, all underground work had to be performed during off-hours to ensure the safety of pedestrians and public property.

Because of the valuable skills of ICI's project management and field staff, the restaurant was able to re-use existing hoods and mechanical equipment, returning substantial savings to the Owner. In addition, our field staff was instrumental in the installation of the rotisserie grill at the entrance. By working closely with the Mechanical Engineer, who was headquartered out-of-state, we were able to determine an interior exit route for the grease duct, as an exterior shaft was not an option.

Baltimore –

ICI's fifth project for Fogo de Chão is located in Baltimore's famed and iconic Inner Harbor. The large interior space seats 300 guests and includes tables suitable for large groups and semi-private dining areas. The interior of this 14,000 SF restaurant boasts the dark wood panels and colorful murals typical of Fogo's signature style.

ICI worked diligently for 26 weeks throughout the spring and summer of 2007 to turn this raw space into a Brazilian work of art for an early fall opening. During construction, ICI once again met the challenges of building in established locations, with Best Buy and Filene's Basement occupying tenant spaces just above the Restaurant.

Austin –

This two-story restaurant is located across from the Austin Convention Center and just blocks from the Capitol Building.

In just 14 weeks, International Contractors, Inc. converted an existing, 8,000 SF, Hooligan's Sports Bar & Grill into an exquisite Fogo de Chão, allowing the restaurant to open in time for the Holiday season. The scope of work including adding an elegant front porch, complete with open flame rotisserie, to the building.

Miami –

In Miami Beach, guests are welcomed into this 11,800 SF restaurant by a blazing fire at the entrance. On the interior, the stunning décor includes dark woods, custom-blown glass chandeliers and intricate murals.

International Contractors, Inc. was initially contracted to perform only interior build out construction for this Fogo de Chão location. However, after several delays in base building structural construction, ICI took over multiple activities in order to expedite schedule. In addition to the typical high end finishes included in this location, ICI rehabilitated the store façade as well as roadside landscaping and sitework.

Miami Beach is well known for its rigorous inspection procedures. Many companies contract with permitting and inspection consultants to aid in the process. ICI was able to complete the final inspections and occupancy and business licenses processes in two weeks, much quicker than is typical for the area.



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Indianapolis –

The Indianapolis Fogo de Chão is located within the former Zipper Building – named for its façade that resembles a zipper. The entrance, containing a 12' x 8' stained glass window depicting Fogo's signature fire, creates a distinct landmark to welcome guests.

International Contractors, Inc. coordinated the build-out of this, 10,000 SF, space with existing tenants on the second and third floors of the building. ICI was able to successfully manage disturbance hours and limit loud noise activities to time frames when the tenants were closed for business.

Throughout the fifteen weeks of construction ICI worked with the Property Manager and Owner to implement architectural details requested by the landlord into Fogo de Chão's exterior façade design. ICI was also tasked with coordinating closely with the Base Building Contractor to ensure a tight schedule was met without delay.



Atlanta –

Fogo de Chão's Atlanta location is situated in the heart of Buckhead, in the City's uptown district. On the exterior, a cobalt blue tower displays Fogo's signature churrasqueria grill, inviting patrons to view the age-old, fire-grilled, cooking process as it still exists in the old country. The interior of the restaurant features a stacked stone fireplace in the lounge and a magnificent, hard wood, wine wall in the dining room.

International Contractors, Inc. remodeled this existing, 8,000 SF, space in just 13 weeks. Because of ICI's careful diligence and schedule coordination, the restaurant was able to maintain continual operations throughout the construction period. The scope of work included rebuilding the entire bar and remodeling the kitchen and dining room. Exterior upgrades included a rehabilitation of the existing parking lot.

Scottsdale –

International Contractors completed the construction of this ground-up 12,000 SF Brazilian steakhouse in Scottsdale, Arizona within a tight, 6-month schedule. Prior to construction, ICI demolished an existing restaurant and brought the site to grade. This included removal of 2,000 cubic yards of unsuitable soils followed by replacement with engineered fill. New sewer, water, electrical and gas services were installed after capping all existing services.

The building is a steel structure with metal stud framing, plywood sheathing, EIFS and a stone and slate facade. The interior of the restaurant follows the Fogo de Chão theme of dramatic lighting, wall murals depicting Brazilian culture and high-end finishes. Finishes include mahogany, teak and cherry millwork, Mexican mosaic glass tile, Brazilian slate, flame patterned powder coated metal panels and electric glass. Site work included planting 25 foot palm trees and hundreds of native ground cover plants around the restaurant. ICI also installed extensive exterior accent lighting. The Scottsdale Fogo de Chão is the company's 13th United States location, and the 10th built by ICI.

Kansas City –

During the build-out of this restaurant, located within the famous Country Club Plaza in downtown Kansas City, ICI was able to restore authenticity to the exterior of the building by refurbishing finials and incorporating mosaic tiles to match the historical façade.

The scope of work included a complete structural remodel of the interior, requiring replacement of the entire structural joist system. All new steel was placed while ICI maintained the structural integrity of the space with shoring mechanisms during construction.

During excavation to replace the interior slab, poor soil and interior pier conditions were found, requiring hundreds of additional hours of overtime. ICI's field and accounting staff worked tirelessly to provide weekly schedule and budget updates to the Owner.



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Houston –

The Fogo de Chão in Houston, TX features a grand dining area with high ceilings, natural Austin stone walls and artwork representing the gaucho lifestyle and culture in Southern Brazil.

This 12,000 SF remodel project was accomplished while the restaurant remained fully operational. In order to successfully complete this project, which included a complete overhaul of the HVAC system, ICI was tasked with completing many scope items during over-night time frames.

For instance, while completing demolition of the tile on the lounge bar, it was found that the underlying structure had rotted. This required ICI to structurally support the die wall of the entire bar and re-tile the structure during one night's work. The restaurant's massive salad bar was also demolished and replaced in one evening. In order to replace the existing dishwasher in one overnight shift, ICI carefully coordinated multiple trades to work simultaneously, including electrical, HVAC and plumbing. Replacement of tile and carpet throughout the restaurant was completed in phases to allow for continual operation.



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