

CITY'S BEST 2009



SEPTEMBER 2009 \$4.50
KANSAS CITY MAGAZINE

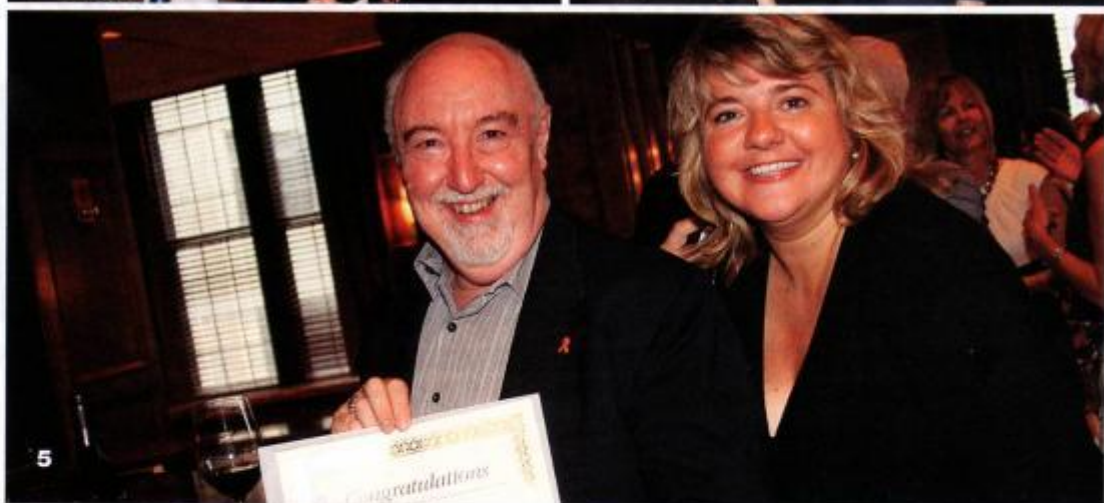




KC BUSINESS MAGAZINE'S
2009 TOP COMPANIES AWARDS

1. Anthem Media Group's Scott Taylor and Bruce Guier with Clientspike's Bill Collins and Heidi Collins 2. United Way of Kansas City's Brent Stewart and Ron Howard 3. A.L. Huber's Joe Huber with Lockton Companies' Troy Redstone 4. *KC Business'* David Hodes and Dara Macan with Top Companies judges Brien Starner and Gary Walker 5. Greg Morey, with Portfolio Kitchen & Home's Geri Higgins, accepted a Top Companies award on behalf of Café Trio 6. Teva Neuroscience Inc.'s Dalton Tomlinson with Kathryn Klobnak 7. Patti Ann Thompson (center) and ColorMark's Larry Thompson with Staffing KC's (from left) Roses Ammon, Jamie O'Roark and Shelley Sieboit.

PHOTOS BY SHOT BEE



{nightlife}

Best Nightclub | Jardine's

The low lights, the table for two and the smooth sounds of classy jazz: it's no wonder reservations are rec-

ommended at Jardine's Restaurant and Jazz Club. While Jardine's offers a full bar and dinner menu, patrons are most often lured in by the music, including the innovative performances of Alacartoon, the cabaret-style performance troupe that makes Jardine's its happy hour home at least once a month.

Best Bar & Best Sommelier | JP Wine Bar and Coffee House & Thomas Goerdel

It has been a banner year for JP Wine Bar. In addition to two City's Best wins, the bar was nominated in the Best New Restaurant category. That's because it opened up its second location in Leawood's hip One Nineteen Shopping Center. There, the establishment has instituted weekly Thursday wine tastings that feature six themed wines and light appetizers for just \$10 per person, with a 10 percent dinner discount before or after the tasting. **Sign us up:** Those who've been waiting for their name to get to the top of the waiting list for the wine locker at JP's Crossroads' location are in luck: memberships are now available at the Leawood location, as well. For \$400 a year, lucky VIPs get one bottle of wine per month, discounts on selections from the wine list and invitations to special events.

Best Casino | Ameristar

Who needs Las Vegas when local highrollers have the Ameristar Casino Hotel right in their own backyard? The casino features all the classics, from Blackjack and Craps to Roulette and high-stakes poker. The property is also home to nine restaurants, including City's Best Cajun Restaurant nominee, Pearl's Oyster Bar.

Editors' Choice | *For us, happy hour is at its happiest at Harry's Country Club. Whether on the patio listening to live music or pumping quarters into the juke box, you're at home at Harry's. Don't even get us started on the perfect combination of high-end cocktails and simple yard beers.*

Best Live Music Venue | Sprint Center

Kansas City has been reaping the benefits of a state-of-the-art arena for more than a year now, and the nation's biggest acts are taking notice. From Tina Turner to Green Day, there has been a little something for everyone at the Sprint Center, and there's more to come. In the next two months alone, the big glass spaceship will be temporary home to the Ringling Brothers Circus (September 16-20), an NHL exhibition game (September 22), Dave Matthews Band (September 30), AC/DC (October 8) and Bruce Springsteen (October 26). **Hobknob Heaven:**

The guys who play in front of Kansas City's biggest crowds are just as happy to be fans at Sprint Center. Says the Wizards' Jimmy Conrad, "I'm from L.A. and have seen some shows out there, but I was very surprised by the acoustics and how the music sounded at the Center." The Royals' David DeJesus agrees: "It's a really nice place, and there's not a bad seat in the house."

Editors' Choice | *Susan Avery's Hair of the Dog, a ruby-red grapefruit elixir she first created at Zin (now home to Michael Smith), is still one of our favorite drinks some five years later. We've chased her down; she's now happily shaking her stainless steel at Café Europa in Brookside's Crestwood Shops.*

Design Excellence Awards

It must be awards season. Also in June, *KC Magazine's* other sister publication, *KC Home Design*, celebrated Kansas City's architecture and design industries with the second annual Design Excellence Awards. The following is a list of this year's DEA-honored firms and individuals. Congratulations to all:

EDWARD TANNER AWARD - RESIDENTIAL
Clockwork Architecture + Design

EDWARD TANNER AWARD - COMMERCIAL
Helix Architecture + Design

2009 DEA WINNERS (in alphabetical order)

Alan Karlin Design
BRR Architecture
Classic Art & Mirrors
Clockwork Architecture + Design
Deb Wagner Interiors
Design Eric Negrete
DLR Group
Ellerbe Beckett
Evan-Talan Homes
Go Studio
H2B Architects
Helix Architecture + Design
Hufft Projects LLC
Jill Tran Interior Design
John Rufenacht Associates
Kim Ebner Designs
Lyon Construction + Design
One Stop Decorating
PGAV Architects
Portfolio Kitchen & Home
Rebecca Riden, AIA Architect
Rosemann & Associates
Steve Nuss Ltd.
Studiobuild
Todd Katzenmeier
Thirdrail
Wendlandt & Stallbaumer
Williams Spurgeon Kuhl
& Freshnock Architects