

# Second retractable enclosure allows for year-round al fresco dining

**WaTiki Indoor Water Park Resort in Rapid City, S.D.**, has not one, but two ways for guests to enjoy the park year-round. In addition to the 130- by 150-foot retractable roof waterpark enclosure completed by OpenAire Inc., Oakville, Ontario, Canada, in 2006, a second sunlit space has been added. Slider's Bar and Grill now has its own OpenAire enclosure with retractable panels and sidewalls that offer patio-style dining.

Opened on New Year's Eve 2010, the restaurant seats 210 people in a space that's airy, welcoming and flexible. Diners can enjoy natural light and great outdoor views in warm, dry comfort, and when summer arrives, the restaurant's bar area turns into a sun-filled patio with lots of fresh, warm air and a wonderful outdoor atmosphere by opening up the OpenAire enclosure.

"The benefits of the year-round usage and the flexibility of OpenAire's solution made them a natural fit when we were looking at options for adding a restaurant to the resort complex," says Donnie Patton, co-owner of WaTiki Indoor Water Park Resort. "Plus we had such a positive experience working with them on the waterpark, it just made sense to bring them back."

Adding on to the existing structure was challenging due to site constraints. But because OpenAire solutions are completely flexible and fully customizable, the company was able to make it look like a simple connection once the work was complete.

"WaTiki is just one example of OpenAire's ability to adapt an enclosure to any space," says Dave Bolwerk, vice president, sales and marketing at OpenAire. "They had a vision, and we were able to work with them to build an enclosure that was exactly what they were looking for. When owners and architects involve us in the planning stages, we can help them achieve their goals, and present them with flexible, innovative options that meet their specific needs."

The retractable roof enclosure over the bar area of the restaurant measures 62 by 52 feet, with a soaring ceiling height of 36 feet at its highest point. The roof structure includes a combination of operable and stationary panels mostly glazed with clear

polycarbonate. The design also incorporates a 5-inch-thick insulated metal roof system to shade diners from the sun on particularly sunny days, and contributes to the clean, contemporary look of the structure.

As part of the second project, OpenAire also incorporated a striking new entrance to the wa-

terpark, with an enclosed stairwell that welcomes visitors and provides a great first impression to new guests. The overall look of the park is welcoming, airy and open, and the new restaurant and entryway extend the appeal of the space, offering visitors even more enjoyment.



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