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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Forum to bring historic space back to life

MINNEAPOLIS (January 13, 2010) – The City Center space left vacant by Goodfellows restaurant in 2005 is headed back to the future with **Forum**, the latest concept from Jim and Stefanie Ringo of Ringo Restaurants, Inc. Just as construction is underway on Ringo—the pair’s first restaurant venture in the new Shops at West End development in St. Louis Park—a deal has been reached with Brookfield Properties to take over the City Center space, which is listed on the national historic register for its art deco interior. The art deco style, with its zigzag woodwork, etched mirrors and glass chandeliers was a signature of Goodfellows, but the features were originally designed for the Forum Cafeteria nearly 80 years ago. Jim and Stefanie Ringo plan to restore the space to its original glory along with many updated enhancements with help from local design firm, Shea, Inc. and Rich Brothers Construction company. Forum is scheduled to debut this April.

The Forum Cafeteria was originally built in 1930 as a remodel of the Saxe Moving Picture Theater. It had a successful run for more than 40 years and in 1976, closed and reopened as a nightclub, Scottie’s on Seventh. In the early 1980s, the building was demolished to make way for City Center, and the stylized art deco interior was carefully removed. In 1983, it was reinstalled in Scottie’s which had relocated to a new City Center spot at 40 S. 7th Street. Over the next several years the space changed hands a few times and was home to Paramount Café, Mick’s and finally Goodfellows, which closed in 2005.

“In 1930, the Forum Cafeteria was a symbol of hope and celebration for people as it opened in the midst of a depression. It was successful because it responded to the needs and emotions of people at that time and offered them a comfortable public gathering place. Eighty years later, we’re doing the same thing,” states Jim Ringo, who is thrilled to once again share the history and architecture with the public. He states, “It’s a real treasure that we needed to make available to the public again.”

The Ringos’ enthusiasm for history and architecture is also echoed in their passion for good food. Jim describes the Forum concept as “American chop house and regional comfort food.” The Ringos have partnered with chef Christian Ticarro, who worked for eight years at the former Canyon Grille in Coon Rapids and has been invited on several occasions to cook at the James Beard House in New York. Forum’s menu will feature chop house fare, (grill items, steaks and chops,) regional comfort food (Cincinnati-style chili and Southern fried chicken,) and a special section each month dedicated to the food, drink and culture of a unique U.S. regional destination, with New Orleans up first when the restaurant debuts in April.

Shea, Inc. is a marketing and design firm integrating expertise in marketing, architecture and interior design. Shea blends diverse perspectives, skills, cultures and knowledge into solid creative strategy for clients. Shea’s client list includes Macy’s, TCF National Bank, Morton’s The Steakhouse, Wells Fargo and Midcontinent Communications. For more information on Shea,

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