

Woodlands at the Promenade



Techcon Dallas, Inc.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ For years legions of Frank Lloyd Wright aficionados have trekked from near and far to the Chicago suburb of Oak Park to experience firsthand the legend's remarkable design prowess, which has long been on display via many of the village's extraordinary residences. Just outside of Chicago in Bolingbrook, the Woodlands at the Promenade has afforded discerning patrons the opportunity to dine on innovative American cuisine and relax in an engaging restaurant setting that pays homage to America's most well-known architect. Designed by Bruce Russo of Techcon Dallas, the Woodlands at the Promenade is a must-visit dining experience for even the most casual of architecture followers—a place where the interior ambience and architectural nuances rival the contemporary American menu offerings for top billing and draw visitors back again and again.

*FACING PAGE: Welcomed by warm hues and various textures, cascading water stimulates the senses as you enter—nourishment for every sense.
Project Design Team: Bruce Russo, Joe Russo, Laura Fate and Victor Badillo.
Photograph by Scott Hagar*





The Woodlands at the Promenade was inspired primarily by Fallingwater—voted the “best all-time work of American architecture” in 1991 by AIA members—yet collectively represents a sophisticated amalgam of many Wrightian designs: elements from the Prairie Style vernacular he perfected in Oak Park, his design studio, Oak Park’s Unity Temple and other extraordinary creations. However, the renowned Fallingwater was at the forefront, guiding the design to its remarkable built-out composition, and is evidenced in specific design elements throughout.

Located at the Promenade Bolingbrook, the Woodlands’ architecture is defined by its natural stone, exquisite hardwoods and clean, contemporary lines—all of which are deftly assembled within a strong horizontal motif, a prominent thread running through the vast majority of Wright’s work. Arrival at the restaurant is denoted by passage through a front entrance flanked by waterfalls on either side, while the bar is elevated with a water feature underneath to simulate the creek at Fallingwater. The interior is awash with natural stones and woods that create a wholly engaging interior aura, which is at once relaxing and inviting. Moreover, the ceiling topography varies throughout the restaurant, creating intimate niches throughout the space and a sense of comfortable sophistication.



An engaging contemporary architectural solution paying homage to a local legend, the Woodlands at the Promenade is the perfect backdrop for leisure and forward-thinking American fare, such as cedar plank citrus salmon and mahogany chicken, to name a few. Designed by Techcon Dallas, this unique restaurant offering has brought a new local flavor to metropolitan Chicago, and has enjoyed such great success that it has spawned additional locations throughout the United States in such locales as Dallas and Colorado. ■ ■ ■ ■



*TOP RIGHT: The sound of trickling water envelops the entire restaurant as the river rock laden water feature wraps around the bar.
Photograph by Scott Hagar*

*BOTTOM RIGHT: The main dining room showcases elaborate high ceilings and an oversized fireplace that grounds the room as its main focal point.
Photograph by Scott Hagar*

*FACING PAGE TOP: The south dining room is handsomely appointed with stacked stone and simple furnishings reminiscent of Wright's sense of style.
Photograph by Scott Hagar*

*FACING PAGE BOTTOM: Clean lines and stone adornments add grandeur accented by strategic lighting, showcasing architecture evocative of Wright's period.
Photograph by Scott Hagar*

