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## Kuhlmann, Burkett, Ten 8 win casino work

**Premium content from St. Louis Business Journal - by Evan Binns**

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[Isle of Capri](#) officials are finalizing design work on the company's \$125 million casino in Cape Girardeau with the help of several local companies, including architecture and engineering firm [Kuhlmann Design Group](#).

Kuhlmann has worked with Isle on the rebranding of its Lady Luck casinos in Caruthersville, Mo., and Marquette, Iowa.

Pre-construction site work, which is being handled by Geotechnology Inc., has started and a groundbreaking is set for this summer, said Dale Black, Isle's senior vice president and CFO.

Isle also is working with Ten 8 Group of St. Louis for graphics and signage and Randy Burkett Lighting for lighting design.

The casino will feature approximately 1,000 slot machines, 28 table games, three restaurants, a lounge and terrace overlooking the Mississippi River and a 750-seat event center.

"We are completing the design work, we're in the process of sending out an RFP to select a contractor and we expect to do so in the next several weeks," Black said.

Construction is expected to wrap up by the end of 2012, he said.

While Isle's new casino is already proving to be a boon for St. Louis companies, the impact will be even greater in Cape Girardeau, said Mayor **Harry Rediger**. The city expects construction work to generate more than 400 temporary jobs and casino operations to create about 450 permanent jobs once the facility opened late next year.

"It will be one of the biggest developments in Cape in recent history, not only the development of the gaming facility and some one million visitors that will frequent it during each year but also the spin off of added development in our downtown area," he said. "We're excited for our business climate here."

Isle of Capri was awarded the state's 13th and final gaming license last month.

Following months of deliberations, the Missouri Gaming Commission selected Isle's project over two other finalists, a partnership between the [Koman](#) family and Tropicana Entertainment, which wanted to build a casino in St. Louis; and Paragon Gaming, which wanted to construct a casino in Sugar Creek outside Kansas City.

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