

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE PEOPLE  
WHO BUILD NORTH AMERICA

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013

# CONSTRUCTION

TODAY

[construction-today.com](http://construction-today.com)

## Fit For a King

CONSIGLI CONSTRUCTION → p.18

**READY FOR THE FUTURE:**  
Chemical manufacturer Daikin  
America is expanding a plant to  
meet future demands.

**110 YEARS OF INNOVATION:**  
Morton Buildings continues to  
find solutions for customers  
after 110 years.





» Consigli Construction is building a 110,000-square-foot Buddhist temple.

# A PLACE OF HONOR

A new temple brings the traditions and styles of Thailand to the Northeast. BY JIM HARRIS

There are not very many contractors that can say they worked on a building that has the full blessing of Thailand's royal family, literally and figuratively. Consigli Construction Co. Inc. will be able to make that claim later this year when it completes construction of the largest Thai Buddhist temple outside of Thailand in Raynham, Mass.

In May 2012, Consigli topped off the exterior of the \$60 million Wat Nawamintarachutis Thai Temple and Meditation Center, an 110,000-square-foot complex commissioned to honor King Bhumibol Adulyadej – also known as the King Rama IX – of Thailand. King Bhumibol Adulyadej was born in 1929 in Cambridge, Mass., roughly 30 miles north of the temple site. Interior and exterior finishing work is now underway on the project, which is anticipated to be complete in summer 2013.

The steel frame building has a precast and limestone exterior, as well as a tile roof. A golden steeple – called a Chedi – will cap the temple, bringing its total height to 185 feet.

The temple is funded mainly by private donations with some participation by the government of Thailand, for whom the project is considered a significant national priority, says Paul Chapple, project director and president of Paul Chapple R.E. Development Inc. Chapple represents the Thai Buddhist sect that will ultimately inhabit the temple. Chapple is working closely with the contractor, architect Been Z. Wang, principal of ARC/Architectural Resources Cambridge (ARC), and a number of Thai artisans who are traveling more than 8,000 miles to the United States from the Asian nation to work on interior and exterior finishes.





# 'This will be an iconic building that will make a significant impact.'

*Consigli Construction - Wat Nawamintararachutis NMR Meditation Center Thai Buddhist Temple*

*www.consigli.com*

- *Project cost: \$60 million*
- *Location: Raynham, Mass.*
- *Employees on site at peak: 200*
- *Scope of work: Cultural/religious facility*

"The intent of this project is to build a high-quality product that will last for generations," Chapple says.

## 'An Iconic Building'

The building's first floor will include a museum for the king, a meditation space will be on the second floor, and the third floor is designated for the temple itself. Additional program elements include a large meeting room that can accommodate 700 people, living quarters and courtyard.

The temple will feature seven Buddha statues, the largest of which is 15 feet in height. The largest statues have a marble base and are cast in bronze and covered in gold. The Buddhas were all crafted in Thailand, where they were personally blessed by Thai Princess Chulabhorn Walailak, Chapple says.

Many of the building's interior finishes are also made in Thailand. These include lotus medallions covered in gold that will adorn the ceilings, as well as a brass central staircase that will join the building's three floors and base-ment level. The building's interior flourishes and architectural details are designed both by ARC as well as Thai artists.

"This will be an iconic building that will make a significant impact on the Thai community in the region and beyond," says Jim DiGiorno, project executive for Consigli.



» The exterior of the temple is made of a customized precast panel system.

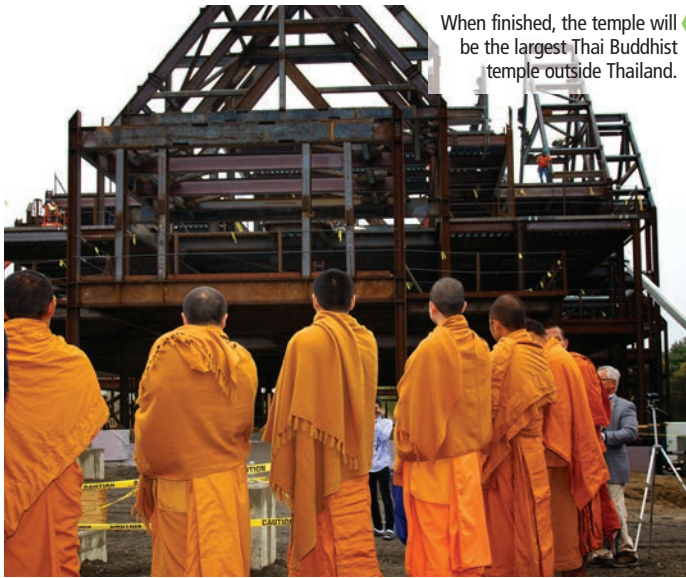
## Problem Solving

The intricate nature of the building's finishes presented a challenge for the project team from a design and construction perspective. Wang and his team at ARC worked hard to ensure that design sketches initially produced in Thailand were honored but also met American standards, while the contractor worked to unify all of the temple's exterior components into one cohesive whole.

Clustering of the building's many multitiered roof gables reduces the massiveness of the structure and is characteristic of both traditional temples in Thailand and rural New England architecture. The design expresses an elegance throughout so that the complex can be understood as a sum of the elements.

"We paid special attention to incorporate elements of Thai culture into the overall design," explains Wang, principal designer from ARC.

The temple's exterior is made up of a customized precast panel system. "There's not a lot of repetition to the building," DiGiorno says. "This



When finished, the temple will be the largest Thai Buddhist temple outside Thailand.



Consigli Construction has been building in the Northeast for more than 100 years.

## 'I'm grateful to the town for being so accommodating toward this project.'

isn't like other buildings where you solve one problem and multiply the solution times 100; here, you have to solve 100 problems."

The contractor, architect and other members of the project team meet several times a week to discuss design and construction concerns. "There's a large amount of communication that has to happen in order to solve these problems," DiGiorno adds. "Fortunately, we're all working toward the same goal."

"This is a project where a group of very good people have spent a lot of time identifying and solving problems that will make the building work in the long term," DiGiorno says.

Chapple is also working to ensure the facility can be one the entire community can benefit from. Beyond its use as a place of reflection and worship, the facility will also be able to house community events. "I have encouraged community uses in order to ensure the whole town can benefit from this facility," he says. "A critical element of the project is involving the town."

In gratitude for community support, Chapple says he and Consigli have contributed financially toward a town Vietnam War memorial the town wishes to build. "I'm grateful to the town for being so accommodating toward this project," he adds.

### 'A Class Act'

While the temple presented some building challenges for Consigli, overcoming the obstacles associated with complex projects is not a new thing for the company.

Founded in 1905, Consigli is a leading regional construction manager and general contractor. The company, headquartered in Milford, Mass., has three other offices and one affiliate serving most of the New England region. The company is led by President Anthony

Consigli and Vice President Matthew Consigli, who represent its fourth generation of family ownership.

The company employs more than 300 carpenters, laborers and masons, giving it the ability to be "true builders," it says.

Consigli's portfolio includes school construction, landmark restoration, healthcare facilities, commercial projects and scientific facilities. This diversity is the company's greatest strength, it says.

"The versatility we demonstrate both across market sectors and within them, means we can assign the most qualified, specialized teams to address the intricacies of every project," the company adds.

The many facets of the temple project are a good fit for the company's experience. "We work on many complicated restoration projects," DiGiorno says. "Our people are very good at planning, and we spend a lot of time working our details. We're pleased to have a project this challenging."

Chapple bid the project to six general contractors in a "highly competitive process," he says. "I'm delighted with working with Consigli," Chapple adds. "They're a high-quality contractor and a real class act, and I'm pleased we made this choice." ♦