



Rendering of The Matrix Club

## Reimagining vacant retail space for celebration, culture, and the arts

*This adaptive reuse project transforms a vacant big box store into a high-end arts and events destination with a memorable guest experience.*

a+c is designing the Matrix Club, an exciting new arts, performance, and private event venue in Naperville. a+c was challenged to transform a former Sam's Club big box retail building into an attractive destination for high-end clients. The adaptive reuse of the space would have to accommodate multiple uses with substantial modifications to both the exterior and interior.

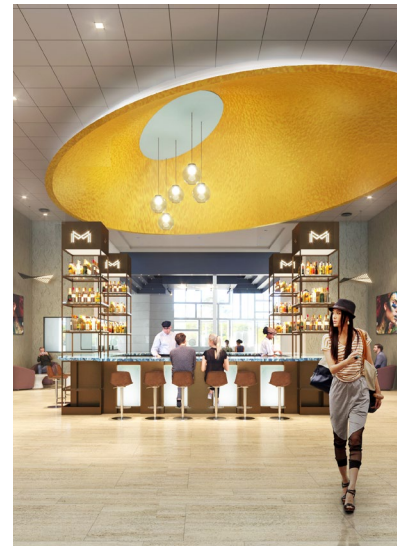
a+c initiated the design process with a highly engaged client. A veteran developer of commercial events facilities, he was entering into a new market in the suburbs. The design team's ultimate solution was informed by the client's extensive experience and vision.

To create a more inviting welcome experience, the design team removed a portion of the front façade and introduced a curtain wall with a glass canopy supported by curvilinear fins extending from the outside in to draw visitors into the space. An interior / exterior wall displays the client's personal collection of musical instruments, grounding the spirit of the venue in music and the arts. The display is visible to the public yet protected from the elements.

Accommodating the client's varied program – including a theater, banquet hall, large restaurant, two bars, and art gallery – required a strategic relocation of interior columns to achieve the clear spans of space needed for these functions. The layout allows for a large common area anchored by three elements: a reflecting pool and a small stage for performances; a free-standing bar crowned by an elliptical dome to anchor the mid-point; and a large natural skylight to connect the space and flood it with natural light. All interior fixtures and finishes, as well as the lighting design, reflect a high-end look and feel while providing durability and cost efficiency.

The multimedia and performance-focused nature of the space required an integrated technology / audiovisual solution. Automated lighting controls change the mood, color, and feel of the space to accommodate a range of uses and complement the vibrant, colorful interior schemes in each space. Touchless check-in and check-outs, temperature readers upon entry, and similar technologies are being implemented to respond to COVID-19, adding important preparedness measures for future similar events.

This design approach for the comprehensive transformation of an existing facility will foster a unique and memorable experience for future Matrix Club guests and serve as a powerful marketing tool to attract new clients.



*Rendering of The Matrix Club*



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*Rendering of The Matrix Club*



*The Matrix Club Under Construction*



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*The Matrix Club Under Construction*



*The Matrix Club In Use*



*The Matrix Club In Use*



*The Matrix Club In Use*