

# Casino design unveiled

By Rod Nickel  
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Seven piercing strobes of light aiming skyward, a wall displaying simulated northern lights and a colourful, rolling design will make the Dakota Dunes Casino and Resort impossible to miss.

That's the whole idea in the casino business, where modesty is not necessarily a virtue, admits the project's architect.

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drawings  
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The Saskatoon Tribal Council unveiled the look of its \$35-million casino for the Whitecap Dakota First Nation on Thursday.

"The real value of this is that it carries a sense of excitement," said Charles Boyd, of Tulsa, Okla.-based Thalden Boyd Architects. Dakota Dunes will be the 105th casino on which Boyd has worked.

"There has to be a wow factor."

The exterior materials include stone, wood and different colours of plaster.

The casino's design evokes Native culture and co-operation. Seven skyward lasers or spotlights (the architect hasn't decided which to use) and seven stone pillars in the entrance symbolize the seven bands of the Saskatoon Tribal Council.

The skyward lights criss-cross, forming a teepee image. At the front entrance, ~~bronze bison will lead to a decorative buffalo jump, which doubles as a waterfall.~~

Design work now turns to the interior, which Boyd said will be stunning.

"I just love it," said Saskatoon Tribal Council grand Chief Glenn Johnstone. The strobes of light should get the attention of business travellers flying overhead, he said.

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