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KC FIRM SELECTED FOR INTERNATIONAL DESIGN COMPETITION

One of 10 World-wide Invited to Former Yugoslavia

(Kansas City, MO – July 28, 2008) Crawford Architects is one of ten firms selected from around the world to participate in the prestigious Velika Plaza international master planning competition. The expansive redevelopment of Velika Plaza covers an 8 mile stretch of pristine Adriatic coastline in Montenegro.

According to The Government of Montenegro, Velika Plaza is to act as a world standard catalyst for the country's rapidly growing tourism market. In doing so, it will function as a centre of excellence offering higher skills training and employment opportunities for the indigenous population. The competition brief asks for an exemplar high category sustainable waterfront resort community providing a wide range of uses and community facilities, including workforce housing. A leading edge environmental, economic and socio/cultural sustainability ethos will permeate all aspects of the development, from master planning through to operation and long term management.

Crawford Architects' partner Thomas Proebstle, AIA, states that Crawford's recently completed waterfront redevelopments in Branson, Missouri, and Darwin, Australia, led to the firm being invited to the competition. According to Tom, "We are being asked to create a place, a world-class resort destination, starting with nothing but the pristine beauty of the existing landscape. As a designer, I can assure you there is nothing more exciting than a request like this. It's difficult to fall asleep sometimes thinking about the possibilities!" Tom goes on to state, "But being part of an office that has a solid history

of experience on waterfront redevelopment projects allows me to focus on establishing the design parameters that will make this a one of a kind destination.”

The success of the Branson development, known as Branson Landing, speaks well of Crawford’s experience. Branson Landing was the largest TIF project in Missouri’s history and is a 24/7 mixed-use development with residences above retail, offices, shopping, and dining. A boutique hotel is also part of the development.

In Australia, Darwin Cove consists of a \$230 Million convention center, 250 room hotel, residential units and a new interior harbor.

After the design teams have submitted their final designs in mid-October, the Government of Montenegro’s Ministry of Economic Development will announce a winning team to advance their design concept. To view further details for Velika Plaza follow this link <http://www.velikaplaza.info/?a=planners>

Crawford Architects is an international architecture and planning firm with offices in Kansas City, Missouri and Sydney, Australia. Crawford specializes in mixed-use commercial developments, sports facilities, convention centers and master planning. For more information, contact Jan Peterson at (816) 421-2640 or jan.peterson@crawford-usa.com

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