FUTURISTIC. RETRO. TRADITIONAL. THEMED. BOUTIQUE. LARGE. COLOSSAL.

There is no way to pigeonhole the bowling centers of the new millennium. They come in all shapes and sizes; from university rec centers and traditional bowling shrines, to massive multi-purpose entertainment facilities. They are glitzy and glamorous, funky and kitschy.

In the hyper-competitive battle for sports and entertainment dollars, making today’s bowling centers stand out is more critical — and difficult — than ever before.

For nearly 30 years, Bowlers Journal has showcased the brightest and boldest examples of architecture and design in bowling centers, and each year the offerings are more impressive than ever.

Read on to get a closer look into the top new and renovated bowling centers of 2013.

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All Star Lanes
Manchester, England

Owner: Mark Von Westenholz
Architect: Daniel Evans

Mark Von Westenholz’ fifth All Star venue in the United Kingdom is perhaps his finest demonstration of making the most of redundant space. All Star Lanes in Manchester found its home in an old railway warehouse that had been converted to shopping and a car park. All Star’s knack for highlighting existing structural features, like exposed pipes, steel columns, and arched brick ceilings, is evident.
Pinstripes
Oakbrook, Ill.

Owner: Dale Schwartz
Architect: Mark Poltorek, RDL Architects

Pinstripes owner Dale Schwartz opened his fourth Pinstripes location in Chicagoland’s toney Oakbrook suburb, and the sleek, upscale bowling, bocce and bistro entertainment facility is another winner. The bi-level center is 40,000 square feet, but RDL Architects’ design makes it feel much cozier. Sixteen bowling lanes, 10 bocce courts, a stylish bistro and a pair of outdoor fire pits make Pinstripes a unique recreation experience.
NEW CENTER BOUTIQUE
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

At 24,000 square feet, Punchbowl Social Food & Drink in Denver is a larger-than-normal “boutique” center, until, that is, you work your way through the slick blend of high-volume bar, gastro-diner, bowling lanes and 1980’s video games. The environmentally focused concept features US Bowling Corp. equipment with its emphasis squarely on the holy trinity of food, beverage and entertainment.

Punchbowl Social
Denver, Colo.

Owner: Robert Thompson
Architect: Oz Architecture
Lightning Ball
Krasnoyarsk, Russia

Owner: USR Sibiryak
Architect: USR Sibiryak

Lightning Ball is the largest bowling center in Siberia, which will come in handy when QubicaAMF’s 49th Bowling World Cup comes to town in late November 2013. Lightning Ball is part of a business complex that includes a 250-room Hilton Garden Inn. The first floor of the complex is a leisure center; the 32 lanes are on the second floor. A balcony offers ample view of action on the two-story space which houses the lanes.
Best New Center

FEC

Uptown Alley
Midlothian, Va.

Owners: Steve & Linda Uphoff, Steven & Cassandra Moore
Architect: Beyond Ordinary Boundaries Architecture

A stunning hi-tech industrial exterior gives ample warning that there is something big and beautiful behind the doors of the 57,000-square-foot Uptown Alley. Thirty-eight custom-designed Brunswick ProLane lanes offer a unique bowling experience, while pool tables, a sports theater, two bars, a massive arcade, The Rotunda ultra lounge and the full-service Red Embers Bar & Grill showcase Uptown Alley’s myriad options.
UltraStar Multi-Tainment Center
Maricopa, Ariz.

Owner: Ak-Chin Indian Community
Architect: Nielsen Partners

Ten Pins Down is the actual name of the Brunswick-outfitted bowling center in the massive UltraStar Multi-Tainment center in Maricopa, and the 24-lane split house is a dandy. Ak-Chin Indian Community officials insisted on a bowling center when plans were devised to open a digital movie theater with California-based UltraStar. Second-floor theater balconies overlook the center, which features an exposed ceiling and brick columns and walls, creating a unique recreation experience.
Latitude 40
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Owners: Brent Brown, Damon Brush
Architect: Roy Williams Architecture

From the architect that earned a BJI award for New Center Exterior in 2011 (Latitude 30 in Jacksonville, Fla.), comes the imposing-yet-inviting glass and steel two-story entrance to Latitude 40. The center-entrance exterior and trademark 21st century logo beckon those in search of a night of entertainment. Emerald green lighting gives the entrance a pot-of-gold appeal at night.
NEW CENTER EXTERIOR
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Splitsville Luxury Lanes
Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Owners: Mark Gibson, Guy Revelle, David Lageschulte, Ed Droste
Architect: Ray Schaefer, Maverick Architecture & Design LLC

Attracting attention at Disney World is a sport unto itself, but Maverick Architecture’s treatment of the entrance to Splitsville is certainly eye-catching. The bright red, two-story vertical lettering is reminiscent of 1950s diner signs. The traditional-script Splitsville logo enhances the building’s center entrance.

NEW CENTER EXTERIOR
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Spare Time Fun Center
Temple, Texas

Owner: Mike Emmons
Architect: Fitzgerald & Associates

The entrance to Spare Time Fun Center in Temple, Texas, stands out like a Nat Nast retro bowling shirt! Fitzgerald & Associates architects carefully wove together interesting vertical and horizontal elements, then tossed in a diamond pattern worthy of your best cardigan. The combination of shapes and colors creates a warm and inviting façade for the bowling center.
BEST NEW CENTER INTERIOR

Kings
Orlando, Fla.

Owner: Kings Bowl of Orlando LLC
Architect: Bill Whitlock, Whitlock Architects

Retro is still cool, and Whitlock Architects put the Rat Pack back in bowling at Kings in Orlando. Reminiscent of the dimly lit lounges of the ’60s, Whitlock incorporates warm colors, moody lighting and curving shapes into the 22-lane center. The racetrack bar and dining areas are framed by tufted banquettes. On the lanes, a private King Pin Room begs to be filled with Sinatra tunes and dry martinis.
Frank Theatres CineBowl & Grille
Delray Beach, Fla.

Owner: Bruce Frank
Architect: ADW Architects

Frank Theatres CineBowl & Grille is as cool as a breeze on the beach, as ADW Architects incorporated soft colors and airy appeal to the multi-use facility. The expanse of the theatre lobby gives way to comfortable couches in the settee area of the bowling center, with sound-absorbing panels floating above the lanes like airy clouds. The café, with indoor and outdoor seating, is bright and roomy.

Palladium AVX Entertainment
Richmond, Texas

Owner: John Santikos
Architect: TK Architects

Borrowing from the formalized characteristics of ancient Greek architecture, TK Architects created a classic column-and-lintel exterior for John Santikos’ Palladium. Yet the interior is sleek, modern and minimalist, with brightly colored light panels giving way to a curved wooden ceiling.
Play Hall
Moscow, Russia

Owner: Transgroup LLC
Architect: Transgroup LLC

Transgroup LLC designed the restaurant and lounge area of Play Hall with comfort in mind. Soft, stuffed arm chairs allow diners to relax, surrounded by tasteful wood shelving and a cozy fireplace. Drum shade pendants further soften the room, and a curved, spindled wall separates the restaurant area from the lounge.
Cosmik Evropeiskiy
Moscow, Russia

Owner: Vlaimir Annenkov
Architect: Cosmik Evropeiskiy

Think Disney on Ice, Magic Mountain and Monster Truck rallies, and you’ll get a glimmer into what wide-eyed kids see when they enter Cosmik Evropeiskiy in Moscow. The massive FEC, which houses Brunswick lanes, features a full-size ice rink, carnival-style rides and redemption games with prizes that would make FAO Schwartz blush!
NEW CENTER LOUNGE/RESTAURANT
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Kingpin Bowlounge at Bingemans
Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

Owner: Mark Bingeman
Architect: ABA Architects, Inc.

Bar, lounge and restaurant blend into one at the expansive Kingpin Bowlounge. The two-story space features a raised bar and center-length concourse, with the restaurant side-by-side with the table-service settee area. Creative corkscrew pendant lighting hangs overhead. A large patio area with couches and coffee tables awaits customers who prefer to relax outside.

NEW CENTER ANCILLARY PROFIT CENTER
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Big Thrill Factory
Minnetonka, Minn.

Owner: Barry Zelickson
Architect: Shea Design

In an effort to attract both families and corporate guests, Big Thrill Factory takes the FEC to another level. Shea Design created indoor and outdoor areas that cater to all ages, with two-story Laser Tag, QubicaAMF string machines, a black-light rope course, miniature golf and no shortage of arcade games.
Brunswick’s
Norcross, Ga.

Owner: Brunswick Bowling & Billiards
Architect: Daniel Tessarolo, Chipman Design Architecture

When Brunswick decided to renovate and remodel its 20-year-old, 40,000-square-foot Brunswick Zone in Norcross, Ga., it charged Chipman Design with creating a bowling and entertainment experience while maintaining the authenticity of the industry’s oldest company. That vision is brought to light at Brunswick’s. From the wood and stone accents welcoming guests to the center to the vaulted ceilings and comforting natural wood and leather interior touches, Brunswick’s invites. Providing a compelling dining area is integral to the modern bowling center, and Tavern ’45 delivers with small plates and craft beers in a contemporary space that spills out onto a patio, replete with a fire pit and table umbrellas. A perfect blend of tradition and modernity.
Jorgensen’s Lanes
Richfield, Utah

Owner: Mike Jorgensen
Architect: Pat Hansen

The full modernization project that took place in Jorgensen’s in rural Richfield, Utah, included the switch to a log-cabin motif. The theme carried to the center’s façade, which now includes a peaked log entrance and a welcoming neon-encased bowling pin.
The remodeling and expansion of Cocktail Bowling Club focused on new equipment and an homage to the USA. From American flags to cowboys, Coke bottles to the Statue of Liberty, the new Cocktail screams Americana. A vintage Harley Davidson welcomes customers to the lounge area. Soft weight sofas add comfort, and lighting elements add dramatic color.
Airway Lanes
Portage, Mich.

Owner: Don Labrecque
Architect: Dynamic Designs, Inc.

As owner of Airway Fun Center, Don Labrecque wanted to add a dramatic VIP section to his 40-lane Airway Lanes within the FEC. Dynamic Designs added drum chandeliers to add drama to the six-lane private area and to encase the VIP lounge in warm tones.
BEST RENOVATED CENTER LOUNGE/RESTAURANT

RENOMATED CENTER LOUNGE/RESTAURANT
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Felix Bowling
Ludwigshafen, Germany

Owners: Marcus Felix, Andreas Hahn

There are stunning transformations of space... and there is Felix Bowling! From a dimly lit, hidden dining area to an airy, colorful and inviting restaurant, Felix has created an entirely new identity. And views onto the lanes below are significantly more enjoyable!

Town Hall Lanes
Minneapolis, Minn.

Owner: Peter Rifakes
Architect: HCM Architects

When local brewpub entrepreneur Peter Rifakes was looking for a third location in the Minneapolis area, the old Skylane Bowling location beckoned. What better place to open a new beer-centric lounge than in an old bowling center? Rifakes rebuilt the 10 lanes inside the 8,200-square-foot space, but the focus is clearly on craft beers, including eight Town Hall Brewery flavors. High exposed ceilings, a massive vintage back bar and even a glitzy chandelier give the space a touch of class.
FlipSide
Gilbert, Ariz.

Owner: Nathan Crane II
Architect: Neil Pieratt, Gilleland Brubaker Architects

In remodeling a former grocery store into what is now FlipSide, architect Neil Pieratt used subtle hints of aviation as a nod to owner Nathan Crane’s aviation background. The arcade and attraction area is completely isolated from the bowling center, allowing segregation of noise.