

Hardin Wins General Contractor Project of the Year: **Westin Tampa Bay Airport Hotel**

Located on pristine Rocky Point Island and rising 16 stories above Tampa stands the Westin Tampa Bay Airport Hotel. The 306,400-sq.-ft. hotel consists of 255 beautifully appointed guestrooms featuring panoramic views of Tampa Bay. On-site amenities include an indoor heated pool and spa, state-of-the-art Westin WORKOUT fitness center, divisible meeting space, a Starbucks coffee shop and a waterfront restaurant.

During construction, Hardin crews worked to overcome several obstacles, the largest of which was getting the hotel open for business in time for the February 1st Super Bowl in Tampa. The contractual finish date for construction was March 17th, 2009, with the hotel opening in April. The project team worked diligently to condense the schedule, working long hours and weekends to deliver a substantially complete project on December 29, 2008 and a certificate of occupancy on

January 8th, 2009. Accommodations were made with the owner and hotel staff to move in key hotel operations staff at the earliest possible moment to shorten the period between construction completion and opening of the hotel property. Hardin staff coordinated closely with the restaurant build-out contractor to ensure their completion prior to the hotel opening. All of this was accomplished while maintaining the strict standards and timelines set forth by Starwood Hotels.

With superb efforts from the parties involved, the hotel opened successfully on January 22, 2009, one week prior to the Super Bowl festivities.

The Westin Tampa Bay Airport Hotel represents a total commitment to teamwork by all parties involved, from the owner to the design and construction teams. Early in the project a "redicheck" was held matching each design team member with the associated subcontractor discipline and member



Hardin crews condensed the already-aggressive schedule of the Westin Tampa Bay Airport Hotel to ensure the hotel would be open in time for the Feb. 1 Superbowl game.



Hardin's Megan Zaccardelli, Todd Fultz & Ben Williams.

of the Hardin project team for cross review of the disciplines to determine drawing conflicts. Hardin's project team was able to

track and successfully integrate the numerous changes without affecting the overall project schedule. ■