

Rathbun to open third Jasper's unit

AUSTIN , Texas (Jan. 23, 2007) Kent Rathbun, chef-owner of the fine-dining Abacus restaurant in Dallas, plans to open the third unit of his more casual Jasper's concept here this spring.

Rathbun has units of Jasper's, which features what he calls "gourmet backyard cuisine," in Plano, Texas, and Houston. The third location will open in the Domain upscale center in North Austin.

"Opening the Jasper's concept has been a long-term career goal of mine," says Rathbun. "I wanted to create a restaurant where guests could enjoy an unforgettable meal whether they were looking for an inexpensive or high-end dining experience and that's exactly what Jasper's has to offer."

The 9,000-square-foot restaurant features teak outdoor-style furniture, bamboo planters and other outdoor elements. This unit is being designed by the Engstrom Design Group of San Francisco, which also designed Abacus and the other Jasper's.

The Austin Jasper's offers three areas for private dining and business functions, each featuring high-speed and wireless Internet access