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BUILDING SIN CITY: THE
LUCIDO LEGACY AT WORK**

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FEATURE STORY

Building Sin City

THE LUCIDO LEGACY AT WORK

BY JENASI NOSS





In the heart of the dazzling Mojave Desert lies a place that has earned many alluring titles: The City that never sleeps, the marriage capital of the world, and, most seductively, Sin City itself. Welcome to Las Vegas, Nevada – a captivating oasis where gambling was born and the pursuit of sinful desires knows no bounds. Casinos such as Circus Circus, Caesars Palace, New York New York, and many more attract visitors from around the world to a glittering alternate reality revolving around the phrase "what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas." These casinos form the foundation of Vegas's market, the building blocks of Sin City. However, to truly understand the evolution of Vegas, we must examine the literal foundations of these incredibly successful casinos. Lou and Liz Lucido, along with their children Rusty, Vanessa, and Anthony, transformed Vegas into their second home. They played a pivotal role in creating numerous major attractions and casinos while building a strong reputation for their development company.

“To truly understand the evolution of Vegas, we must examine the literal foundations of these incredibly successful casinos.”



Luxor, 1998-1999

Bellagio Hotel & Casino, 2003



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MGM Grand, 1992-1993

Signature Tower/MGM Grand, 2005-2006



Planet Hollywood, 2006-2007

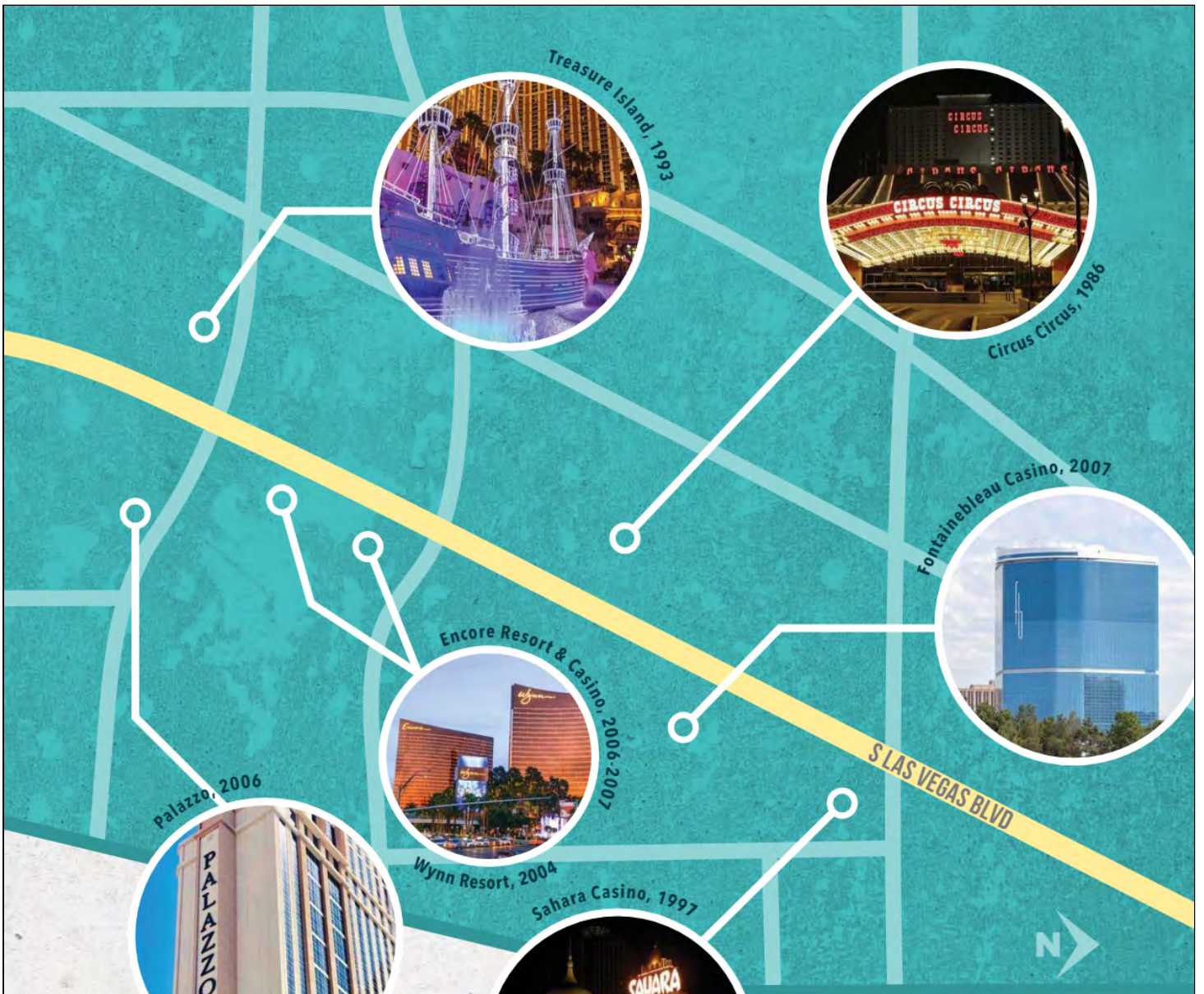


"In March of this year, I was in Vegas at Conexpo, exhibiting with ROC Equipment. We had participated in Conexpo before, but this year was different as our booth was in front of the last casino where I served as an assistant project manager - the Fontainebleau Casino. Gazing up at this building made me realize how Vegas had become a second home. Since 1986, our family has been responsible for placing foundation shafts and piles up and down that iconic strip. It also made me realize that our hard work in this industry often goes unnoticed. We lay the foundations and depart before the rest of the structure is even

complete. When the new casino, theme park, convention hall, concert hall, or even bridges open, it is the designers, owners, and sometimes general contractors who receive recognition, but rarely, if ever, the drillers. Yet, as humbly as I can put it, our industry is what makes these structures possible," says Vanessa Lucido, reflecting on her involvement with the company from 1986-2007, during which 25 different structures in Vegas had their foundations, drilled shafts, retaining walls and/or piles incorporated into over 21 years.

"I was married to Lou for 32 years. I was dating him when he decided

to venture out and start Becho Inc. in 1979. As a young couple, we had goals and aspirations to build a company and a family. At times, Lou had all his family working alongside him. Lou took family very seriously, and many of those who worked for him were considered family as well," says Liz Lucido, thinking on the company's early beginnings. The company was built on strong values and treated employees as part of the extended family. "When we began acquiring jobs in Vegas, it was a time of great excitement and anticipation. Having worked in the oil fields, the idea of being in a city experiencing such a growth



spurt was very exciting. The contractors were professional, and the flow of money was smooth." Liz and Lou had built a name for themselves, establishing a reputation in a fast-paced and glamorous city like Las Vegas. It was both a remarkable achievement and an immense workload, but the Lucidos were more than prepared for the challenge.

The Lucidos started their Vegas journey in 1986 with Circus Circus, arguably one of the centerpieces of Las Vegas. They drilled 600 shafts for one of the most popular casinos in the world's gambling capital. Lou and his team worked tirelessly, around

“ We quickly learned in Vegas that the owner's handshake was as good as a signature, and the job would begin immediately. - Liz Lucido ”

PROJECT LIST

Circus Circus, 1986

Work Scope: Foundations
600 drilled shafts, 3" dia., 30' deep
Project Owner: Marnell Corrao

Mirage Hotel & Casino, 1989 & 1996

Work Scope: Drilled shafts for Monorail,
Parking Garage & Volcano Structure
Project Owner: MGM Resorts

Harrah's Club, 1990

Work Scope: Foundations
300 drilled shafts, 3' dia.
Project Owner: Mardian Construction,
Perini Building Company

MGM Grand, 1992-1993

Work Scope: Drilled shafts for Theme
Park Sky coaster, rides, and attractions
Project Owner: MGM Mirage Group

Caesars Palace, 1992, 2001, 2005

Work Scope: Drilled shafts for Augusta Tower,
Forum Shopping, and parking garage
Project Owner: Caesars Entertainment Corp.

Station Casino, 1993

Work Scope: Foundations
Drilled shafts, 2' dia., 40' deep
Project Owner: Palace Stations, Marnell Corrao

Flamingo Hilton Hotel, 1993

Work Scope: Foundations
150 drilled shafts, 4' and 7' dia., 35' deep
Project Owner: Mardian Construction,
Perini Building Company

Treasure Island, 1993

Work Scope: Shafts for the Pirate Ship
Drilled shafts, 4' dia., 35' deep
Project Owner: Marnell Corrao

Boulder Station Hotel & Casino, 1994

Work Scope: Foundations
Drilled shafts, 2' dia., 40' deep
Project Owner: Palace Stations

Fremont Street Experience, 1994-1995

Work Scope: Drilled shafts
Support Shafts for Fremont Experience Canopy
Project Owner: FSE, LLC

Circus Circus, 1995

Work Scope: Grand Slam Canyon
Drilled shafts, 5' to 9' dia., 35' to 45' deep
Project Owner: Perini Building Company

Rio Hotel & Casino, 1996

Work Scope: Foundations
Drilled shafts, 3' to 6' dia., 40' deep
Project Owner: Marnell Corrao



▲ MGM Grand

the clock, to build a name and reputation for themselves and their company. Early on, the Lucidos learned how to operate in Vegas. Chris Howells, who started with Lou in the 1980s, recalls, "After we completed one job, we would walk down the strip and say, 'Let's find another!' We would enter a jobsite trailer and come out with the next project." In those days, projects were approved with a simple handshake, unlike today's complex processes involving bidding, contracts, and legal procedures. "We quickly learned in Vegas that the owner's handshake was as good as a signature, and the job would begin immediately," states Liz. A handshake represented trust in the individual, their company, their work, and their equipment. The Lucido empire continued to expand in 1989 when they took on the Mirage Hotel and Casino, followed by a series of projects that came at an astonishing rate.

Rusty Lucido was the first Lucido sibling to embark on Vegas projects. He grew up alongside the construction crews, studying blueprints with his father, and witnessing the drilling of shafts, unknowingly witnessing the impact the company would have on Sin City. Rusty fondly recalls that while trips to Vegas were always business-driven, Lou and Liz always made sure to incorporate fun into their work. They would often go to dinners, shows, and engage in family activities amidst the wild nightlife that Vegas offered. It was during his early drilling days that the Lucido's drilled shafts for the Harrah's Club, Flamingo Hilton Hotel, MGM Grand's theme park, New York, New York roller coaster, and many other rides and attractions. Rusty's first project as a project superintendent was overseeing the foundation shafts for the Planet Hollywood Hotel, involving the placement of 550 drilled shafts with diameters

ranging from 4 to 5 feet and depths of 80 to 120 feet. Frank Prosser, one of Lou's right-hand men, played a crucial role in guiding Rusty through the industry, including mentoring him during his first project management assignment at Planet Hollywood. Prosser had been working with the Lucidos since their early days in Vegas. Together with Lou, they built Bay Shore System's LLM1000, which was the largest drill attachment of its time. This unit was essential in making drilling more efficient, as Lou was always

innovative and constantly sought ways to enhance equipment and drilling operations.

In the midst of it all, Vanessa, born into a family with a strong work ethic and a desire to create a lasting legacy beneath the Las Vegas strip, fully embraced the city as her second home. "In the 80s and 90s, my brothers and I were young kids who would follow my dad and his drill team to Vegas for each project. While we were helping construct one hotel and casino, we would stay in another hotel," Vanessa



“ *The Lucido's drilled shafts for the Harrah's Club, Flamingo Hilton Hotel, MGM Grand's theme park, NY, NY roller coaster, and many other rides and attractions.* ”

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▲ Bellagio Tower

PROJECT LIST CONTINUED

New York New York, 1996

Work Scope: Roller coaster and parking garage
 Drilled shafts, 3', 4', 5' dia., 50' deep
 Project Owner: Marnell Carrao

Sahara Casino, 1997

Work Scope: Drilled shafts, 6' & 7' dia., 35' deep
 Project Owner: Hansel Phelps Construction

Luxor & Excalibur, 1998–1999

Work Scope: Monorail System Foundations
 Drilled shafts, 2' & 4' dia.
 Project Owner: MGM Mirage Group

Venetian Casino, 1998

Work Scope: Drilled shafts, 3' dia., 40' deep
 Project Owner: Lehrer, McGovern & Bovis

Bellagio Hotel & Casino, 2003

Work Scope: Foundation addition
 217 drilled shafts, 3' dia., 40' deep
 Project Owner: Bellagio Hotel & Casino

Wynn Resort, 2004

Work Scope: Foundation
 Drilled shafts, 3' dia.
 Project Owner: Marnell Carrao

MGM Grand, 2005–2006

Work Scope: Signature Tower Foundation
 104 drilled shafts, 4' dia., 55' to 80' deep
 Project Owner: Marnell Corrao

reminisces about her childhood. From Station Casino to Treasure Island, the Lucido family moved from one project to another. Given the demands of the industry, Vanessa recalls that the Lucido children sometimes had unreliable babysitters when they were not allowed on the job site. These "questionable characters" often posed challenges for the Lucido family. "Working in Vegas was tough, not just because of the soil conditions... Although caliche made the work difficult, the allure of the exciting lifestyle and glitz and glamor often captivated ambitious individuals. Many times, drillers would get caught up in the late nights of Vegas or fall in love with a showgirl and hastily marry at a 24/7 chapel, failing to show up for work the next day." Vegas has always been known as the marriage capital of the world, and traveling employees were no exception to its influence. Despite the intensity of the industry, the Lucidos managed to keep up. "Casinos were

being erected every year. We would track the drill rigs from one jobsite to the next until 2007 when the market crashed. It was the first time Vegas stopped growing," says Vanessa. She began her career in the industry assisting Lou and Frank on various jobsites, including the Venetian, Palazzo, Encore, and Planet Hollywood.

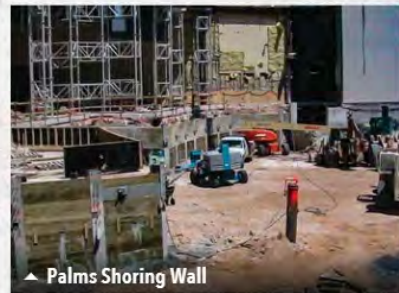
Eventually, another member joined the Lucido legacy. Anthony Lucido was born during the Lucido family's demanding days in Vegas. Following his parents and older siblings to jobsites such as the Sahara casino, the Bellagio, Venetian, Luxor, and Excalibur, Anthony was too young to remember most of the specific details. However, the foundation of a strong family resonated with him throughout the years. "Road trips through the wild west, when it was still untamed, created a close-knit family," recalls Anthony. The sound of slot machines



▲ Bellagio Tower



▲ Palms Shoring Wall



▲ Palms Shoring Wall

PROJECT LIST CONTINUED

The Palms, 2006

Work Scope: Pearl concert venue permanent support system; Retaining shoring wall
Project Owner: Palms Hotel & Casino, MJ Dean

Venetian Palazzo, 2006

Work Scope: Palazzo
Retaining shoring wall
Project Owner: Lehrer, McGovern & Bovis

Palazzo, 2006

Work Scope: Palazzo parking garage;
Micropiles
Project Owner: The Venetian, Taylor Int. Group

Encore Resort & Casino, 2006–2007

Work Scope: Encore Pool
Drilled shafts, tiebacks, pool decking
Project Owner: Wynn Casino, Tutor Saliba

Planet Hollywood 2006–2007

Work Scope: Foundation
550 drilled shafts, 4' to 5' dia., 120' deep
Project Owner: Aladdin Casino, Westgate, Tutor Saliba

Fontainebleau Casino, 2007

Work Scope: Foundation
756 drilled shafts, 3' dia.
Project Owner: Turnberry West

became a familiar backdrop for Anthony and being on the premises of large casinos like MGM Grand, Palazzo, and even the Palms became normal. He recalls delivering water to the crews and finding his permanent spot in the center console of the truck next to his father. Anthony, Rusty, and Vanessa often took on odd jobs to assist their parents' business, such as cleaning the office, organizing documents, and maintaining the shop during their adolescent years.

The Lucido's acknowledge that their success in Vegas was only possible due to the hard work of many individuals and companies with whom they still maintain close working relationships today. "To construct structures as renowned as many in Vegas, it takes a team of diligent men and women," states Anthony.

"Having drilled all over the US since starting in Vegas, I must admit that some of the best operators are in Vegas," adds Kent Petersen, who joined the Lucidos in 2002 and worked on projects such as the Bellagio Spa, Wynn, Palms, Palazzo, Planet Hollywood, and Fontainebleau. "Placing shafts in Vegas taught you how to drill. The subsurface would change from one shaft to another. You could drill 10 feet away and encounter completely different materials. Dealing with caliche and the aquifer posed challenges," Petersen explains. Vanessa adds, "If you attended this year's Conexpo, you would see that Fontainebleau remains unfinished, and crews are working vigorously to complete it. This project began in 2007 when Rusty, Vanessa, and a drill team placed 756 shafts in just four months because we

