

#6 The Trading Place of America

60 FOR 60

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"In 1995, another '60 for 60' client, Bob Miller (Essenhaus) recommended that Kevin Lambright call us. I was impressed then, and still am, that two who could have been considered competitors were actually collaborating to improve overall tourism in the area. Kevin said that he 'had a vision for what he'd like to see across the road,' but that he needed help on 'how to turn it into a reality.' That was the beginning of The Farmstead Inn project, our business relationship, and our friendship. Nearly 20 years later, I still get together regularly with my friend to share life and our business experiences."

--Bob Schrock, CEO
DJ Construction

History:

- DJ received its first phone call in 1995 from Kevin Lambright, co-owner of the Trading Place of America that includes the world famous Shippshewana Auction & Flea Market. Our relationship spans two decades of partnering on numerous projects.
- DJ led the DesignBuild process for the new Farmstead Inn in 1996. The project of nearly 75,000 sq. ft. included 85 guest rooms along with a pool and recreation wing, creating a family destination in Northern Indiana's Amish countryside. The indoor pool/rec area includes a hot tub, kiddie area, ample sitting areas for gatherings, an indoor basketball court, and a separate game room, all housed in what looks like a barn and silo from the exterior.
- In 1998, DJ built the Antique Gallery next door to the Farmstead Inn, a 30,000 sq. ft. two-story building whose red exterior fits into its rural design theme. Parts of the second floor overlook the first floor of the grand atrium, and the gallery is home to over 100 antique dealers.
- DJ returned to the Farmstead Inn in 2003 to build 55,000 more sq. ft. of inn space that included an additional 69 guest rooms, 15,000 sq. ft. of conference space that can seat 500-700 people, a catering kitchen, and more intimate gathering areas with fireplaces and an abundance of windows to bring the pastoral setting indoors.
- In 2008, DJ expanded The Trading Place's offices by converting space in the west end of their Shippshewana Auction Barn.
- DJ built a 10,500 sq. ft. open air pavilion near the Farmstead Inn in 2012 to host antique shows in addition to community and group events. It was designed to blend in with the rural look and setting of the other buildings on The Trading Place campus.

