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# International design icon tapped for the next big Austin hotel

Feb 2, 2015, 12:24pm CST

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Kelly Wearstler, one of the most highly lauded interior designers in the world, will handle the interiors of the new Austin Proper Hotel — a distinct new hospitality brand that will be part of the redevelopment of the Green Water Treatment Plant downtown.

[Adam Nims](#), principal of [Trammell Crow](#) in Austin, confirmed that California development and real estate company [The Kor Group](#) will build the 35-story hotel — which will include private residences — in an exclusive interview with the Austin Business Journal.

Nims was joined by [Brian De Lowe](#), principal of The Kor Group, and [Matthew Green](#), Austin managing partner and vice president of acquisitions and development for The Kor Group.

Green had played a pivotal role in the development of the [W Austin Hotel & Residences](#) when he was vice president of development and finance at [Stratus Properties](#) (Nasdaq: STRS), which built Block 21.

The development team said the demand for hotel rooms that serve the Austin Convention Center is strong and projected to grow stronger.

DeLowe said he isn't worried that Austin's hotel sector will be overbuilt even though [thousands of rooms are under construction](#) or in the pipeline.

He said Austin lacks a downtown hotel with a high degree of distinctive design. Handel Architects LLP in San Francisco has been selected for the building honors — that company has designed several acclaimed Ritz-Carlton hotels, including those at Central Park and Battery Park in New York, as well as Trump Soho New York hotel.

Wearstler, meanwhile, is a bestselling author, who owns numerous product and style brands in addition to operating a Los Angeles boutique. She was a judge on the Bravo Network's "Top Design" program and is frequently cited in global magazines such as Vogue and Elle. She has handled numerous hospitality

projects, including several Viceroy Hotels. De Lowe formerly was an executive with the [Viceroy Hotel Group](#).

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Jan Buchholz covers commercial and residential real estate, construction and architecture and retail and restaurants for the Austin Business Journal.

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