

Dever Architects Works with One of Hilton's Newest Hotel Brands



Above: "Home2 Suites, Ridley" Rendering by Allison Klingler. Used with permission from Dever Architects

In 2009, Hilton Worldwide announced its first new hotel brand in twenty years, and by 2011, the inaugural Home2 Suites by Hilton had opened.

Six years later, with less than 200 Home2's in the United States, Dever Architects is working on six separate Home2 Suites including ones in Warminster, Ridley, and King of Prussia, PA and another in Bordentown, NJ. Dever Architects is also working on two other Home2 Suites located in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Home2 Suites was designed as a more affordable extended-stay hotel, one that visitors would feel welcome and at home in. It has an open lobby and breakfast area with a media wall, a business center, and a 24/7 coffee zone to create a casual area that promotes community. The brand also calls for several patios, including one with a grilling area and another with a firepit. In order to fully welcome its guests, Home2 Suites includes the beacon – a tower-like feature that glows at night to guide home weary travelers.

Home2 also promotes two important aspects: sustainability and philanthropy. Many of the materials are made of recycled materials and many of the plumbing fixtures are low-flow. Home2 also works with Clean the World, which collects and recycles unused soap to donate to those in need. On a corporate level, Home2's Your2 Hands, a community outreach program, partners with the Mid-South Food Bank and encourages individual hotels to partner with their local charities.

While keeping all of these essential aspects of the brand, Dever Architects has also pushed forward to further emphasize the Home2 focus on community. Several of their Home2 projects include enlarged lobby spaces for guests to gather in, added meeting rooms for the community to congregate in, and extra patios for additional outdoor lounging.

In Warminster, PA, the Home2 Suites will be a four-story, 61,700 square-foot hotel with 106 rooms, almost 40% being queen/queen units. Site work began in August 2017 and construction is projected to be completed in 13 months. Based on an end-beacon model, the Warminster Home2 also features an enlarged lobby area – 725 square feet larger than the prototype.

Home2 Suites in Bordentown, NJ, a project currently under construction and is scheduled to open this winter. It will be a four-story, 72,500 square-foot hotel with 119 rooms. Seven one-bedroom units and the adjoining king studios will have custom entry vestibules to allow for larger groups or families to have a more private space. Based on a center-beacon model, the Bordentown Home2 also features a slightly enlarged lobby space. To help promote Home2's community feel, Dever Architects and the owner added two large, custom meeting rooms (each over 1,000 square-foot) and one smaller board room to serve as meeting spaces for local groups and businesses.

Originally a Comfort Inn and Suites, the Home2 Suites in King of Prussia is expected to start construction in the fall of this year. The original building had to be modified in order to accommodate the large lobby and gathering space, an enlarged fitness center, a new indoor pool, and the outdoor patio area. A new cantilevered canopy at the entry will help welcome guests to this 115 guestroom hotel, which includes a mix of single and double queen accommodations.

Home2 Suites in Ridley is currently in the construction document development phase and has been carefully designed for its unique location. It is close to the Philadelphia Airport and its owners have requested an enlarged lobby area and board room as they often get travelers who need meeting space. It will feature 113 guestrooms in 64,000 square feet and is placed on its site so as to interact with the restaurants within its complex.

The Home2 Suites in New Jersey and Pennsylvania locations are in preliminary design phases. The New Jersey location has a difficult site and requires an L-shaped floor plan in order to accommodate the tight space for the 109 guestroom hotel. The Pennsylvania location is expected to have between 130 and 140 guestrooms.

Dever Architects is proud to help local owners to develop spaces for their community where guests feel welcome and comfortable while also bringing in the brand of Home2 Suites that dedicates itself to community, sustainability, and philanthropy.



Above: "Home2 Suites, Bordentown" Photo by Thomas McKenna. Used with permission from Mercer Management
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