

Dever Architects Requested Thrice for Staybridge Suites



Above: "Staybridge Suites, Allentown West, 2005" Photo by Dever Architects.

There were still less than 100 Staybridge Suites by InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) when Dever Architects set about designing one in Allentown, PA in 2004.

As a brand, Staybridge Suites is known for its sense of community, comfort, and convenience. The prototype draws inspiration from family meeting spaces and features a large "great room" just off the lobby where guests can relax on their own or gather for breakfast and social hour. The Staybridge design also has outdoor spaces which include patios, pools, and sports courts. All guest rooms are suites and include full kitchens, so there is plenty of room for families to spread out in.

Located on a narrow site, the 58,000 square foot Allentown hotel had 83 suites, a large great-room styled lobby, an outdoor patio with basketball court, and an indoor pool. Dever Architects had to take great care with the building's footprint; due to the narrowness of the site, the prototypical courtyard layout could not be used. Instead, the hotel was designed as an L-shape in order to both fit the site and create the tucked-away outdoor gathering space needed for a Staybridge.

For years the Allentown Staybridge supported a community and allowed guests to feel comfortable and at home during their stay. And in 2013, Dever Architects was approached again in order to make the gathering spaces feel even more comfortable.

The hotel was too full and needed more guestrooms – so an addition was built. Seventeen guest suites were added, including 8 one-bedroom suites, in order to fully maximize spaces for guests. In building the new addition, updates were able to be made to the pool area. The new pool space is a taller, brighter space that makes spending time there more comfortable. The new addition was finished in 2016 and now a T-shaped building sits, still comfortable, on the narrow lot.



Above: "Staybridge Suites, Allentown West, 2016" Photo from Google Maps.

Right: "Staybridge Suites, Pool Interior" Photo from Staybridge Suites Allentown West



Shortly after the pool addition designs began, the Staybridge owners turned again to Dever Architects, asking for their support with their 2015 property improvement plan.

Focusing their efforts on the public spaces, the original Staybridge design was updated to be brighter and more open, while still retaining the residential comfort that the Staybridge brand is so well known for. By 2016, along with the new addition, Staybridge Suites in Allentown had a new lobby, business center, breakfast area, and great room, all freshly refurbished and updated through Dever Architects.

Three times over the course of eleven years, Dever Architects has been asked back to design, add on to, and update IHG's Staybridge Suites Allentown, each time providing a great service that kept a client relationship going for over a decade.

Dever Architects has also worked on Staybridge Suites new builds in Wilmington-Brandywine Valley and Royersford as well as PIPs for Staybridges Suites in Newark, DE and Lehigh Valley and Allentown, PA.

Thomas Dever is on IHG's Design Immersion Program's "Architect and Designer Approved List."



Above: Left: "Staybridge Suites Breakfast, 2015" Right: "Staybridge Suites Breakfast, 2016" Photos by Thomas Dever
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