

# Hotel planned for Trinity Bluff downtown

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Mayse & Associates

The hotel will have an outdoor pool and exercise room, and the guest rooms will have full kitchens and new electronics. Mayse & Associates

A Dallas-based hotel developer plans to begin construction in late July on a 140-room TownePlace Suites hotel at the northeast corner of Belknap Street and Samuels Avenue in Trinity Bluff downtown.

The project of Western International, which also developed the Residence Inn by Marriott in So7 on the near west side, was approved by the Downtown Design Review Board on Thursday. The company can now apply for permits to build the hotel.

The exterior of the four-story hotel will be colored stucco, limestone and concrete, and will feature a Spanish-style terra cotta tile roof to match the roof at the nearby Nash Elementary School. The hotel will have an outdoor pool and exercise room, and the guest rooms will have full kitchens and state-of-the-art electronics.

Once construction begins, the hotel should take about 13 months to complete, said Michael Mahoney, a partner in Western International. It will employ about 20 full-time workers, he said.

TownePlace Suites is a midpriced, extended-stay brand of Marriott launched in 1997. There are about 145 nationwide.

The privately held Western International is buying 1.98 acres from a partnership, headed by Tom Struhs, that is developing Trinity Bluff, a multimillion-dollar redevelopment project of the historic Samuels Avenue neighborhood just northeast of downtown.

A hotel has been in the development's master plan since it was conceived nearly a decade ago.

Guests at TownePlace Suites will enjoy being near downtown, Mahoney said. He called Trinity Bluff a "high-end, cutting-edge" development.

Until now, other developers have built apartments and town houses in the development. Struhs is constructing a luxury condo tower called Villa DeLeon.

Western International also developed the Courtyard by Marriott and Springhill Suites along Interstate 30 on the city's west side. The company primarily develops Marriott-brand hotels and has completed about 70 properties in the Southwest in the past 10 years, Mahoney said.

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