



Western International

News Release

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Western International Announces Commencement of Renovation of Downtown Hilton Waco Hotel in Waco, Texas

Western International has announced commencement of the renovation of the downtown Hilton Waco hotel in Waco, Texas. “The planning has taken longer than we wished, due to unknown conditions we discovered during the planning process,” said Gene Carter, owner of Western International. “This building is an eyesore to Waco and we decided to expand our rehab budget from \$9 million to \$16 million to make the building truly like new.”

The renovations will be extensive: The building exterior, HVAC, elevators, swimming pool, outside area, front desk, lobby and restaurant will all be new. Meeting space will be added to bring the property up to 21st century standards. All furnishings will be new and upscale; and not a single piece of furniture will be retained. The entire skin of the building will be replaced to create a thoroughly upscale, modern look, and on completion the property will feature a gourmet restaurant, a state-of-the-art exercise facility — all the hallmarks of a true luxury hotel.

Western International has engaged Williams Landscape Company of Dallas to create fountains and landscaping throughout the project, consistent with the quality of the building, as well as an “event garden area” between the hotel and convention center for weddings and other outdoor gatherings. Finally, Carter wants to communicate to Waco residents the renovation on the Hilton Waco hotel is much more than a cosmetic refresh — it is a complete retrofit transforming every part of the property. “When completed, the hotel could compete in any major market in the country,” said Carter.

Western also is now completing a refresh of the Courtyard by Marriott Waco property, with all new room décor, and commencing a major upgrade of the lobby/restaurant area. Upgraded landscaping and a pool refresh have just been completed for the Courtyard property.

Western International has developed more than 100 hotels, with 20 now under construction or in the pipeline. Texas Western Hospitality, an affiliate of Western International, will manage the property at a four-star level, according to Mark Van Amerongen, President of Texas Western. A press conference will take place on Wed., Feb. 21, at 11:00 a.m. CST to further discuss the project with media and other interested parties.