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On
Location

NC's Heartland Hotels

Two new upscale properties offer cutting-edge lodging in North Carolina.

THE GREEN PIEDMONT OF NORTH CAROLINA IS A BULLISH BUSINESS AND LIFESTYLE region that's increasingly welcoming to visitors. Cases in point: The **Proximity Hotel**, probably the greenest hotel in the U.S., just opened (appropriately) in Greensboro, and the **Umstead Hotel** recently debuted near the Raleigh/Durham area. Proximity, named after a landmark, long-gone Greensboro textile mill, is a **solar panel-festooned property**. It's also a hot biz-travel address this month during the nearby international High Point Market, the largest furnishings-industry trade show in the world. Proximity's crisp, ultra-modern décor continues in the hotel's adjoining **Print Works Bistro** (above), an eatery with

French flavor. Outdoor seating overlooks a rippling stream. Though not LEED-platinum rated like the Proximity, Raleigh's ultraluxe Umstead Hotel **immerses guests in 12 acres of green space** that includes a pond. The 150-room hotel's four-star Mobil rating eclipses any other Triangle hostelry by one star. Also boasting a AAA four-diamond rating and status as the **state's only member of the Leading Spas of the World**, the Umstead has reached the pinnacle of the state's hospitality industry in just over a year of operation. ■—*Randy Johnson*

cybersidebar

Check 'em out before check-in. See a hotels and hikes slideshow: hemispheresmagazine.com.

Natural Settings

These new hotels offer easy access to natural North Carolina. From the Proximity Hotel, take Greensboro's **Lake Daniel Greenway** trail to limber up. The Umstead Hotel is adjacent to **one of the great urban-trail systems in the U.S.** Just a few tenths of a mile away, paved and wooded walking and biking paths explore 5,500-acre **Umstead State Park** and link all the way into Raleigh itself. On the way, explore trailside sculpture at the North Carolina Museum of Art.

PHOTOGRAPHY / MARK FIFE