



A suite in Proximity Hotel offers stunning views, inside and out. Below, the O. Henry (left) and Proximity hotels.



With the opening of Proximity Hotel, the O. Henry Hotel's owners now offer two unique lodging choices.

Traditional Elegance or Sustainable Style

Since 1998, travelers looking to stay in a luxury boutique hotel in Greensboro have headed straight for the O. Henry Hotel. Now its owners, Quaintance-Weaver Restaurants & Hotels, offer a second option: the newly opened Proximity Hotel.

The two high-end sites pamper

their guests in entirely different ways.

"The O. Henry is almost like a country aristocrat thing," explains Dennis Quaintance, CEO and chief design officer of Quaintance-Weaver. "It's a hotel you might find in Britain or Boston that's rather traditional."

Yet the hotel is "in and of" this Southern city, named after the world-

renowned short-story writer William Sydney Porter, who was born in Greensboro. Builders used locally sourced materials and borrowed design cues from the original O. Henry Hotel, which was built in 1919 and demolished in the 1970s. As a result, guests think the O. Henry has been around forever.

"I can't tell you how many times I've been asked when we renovated this hotel," says Quaintance.

Large guestrooms feature equally spacious bathrooms with soaking tubs and showers. Guests are offered chauffeur service around town in authentic British cabs. And the plush, on-site Green Valley Grill is a favorite among locals for business lunches and celebration dinners.

The Proximity, on the other hand, offers a more urban look.

"A lot of the furnishings are rather traditional, but it has a loft-like feel to it," says Quaintance.

The accompanying Print Works Bistro furthers that industrial-chic style with its high ceilings, which sport exposed ductwork, and soft curtains that elegantly section off dining areas.

Unique to Proximity are its many environmentally friendly features. The hotel follows the guidelines of the Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. Proximity uses 33 percent less energy and 30 percent less water than a comparable hotel, Quaintance says. Its elevators actually generate electricity as they descend, for example. Lighting in some 97 percent of the occupied space comes from natural light.

"We also get most of the hot water from solar panels," Quaintance adds. "When you take a shower in the Proximity, you're showering with the warmth of the sun."

— Chris Gigley

Where to Stay

Biltmore Greensboro Hotel

This boutique hotel dates back to 1895, and its quaint rooms offer hardwood floors and canopy beds. Enjoy the complimentary wine and cheese receptions each night before you hit the town. 111 Washington St., 336-272-3474, thebiltmoregreensboro.com

Doubletree Hotel Greensboro

Experience contemporary luxury at this full-service hotel. Guest rooms are comfortable with Sweet Dreams beds, work desks, and HBO. 3030 High Point Rd., 336-292-4004, doubletree.com

Greenwood Bed & Breakfast

Indulge in Southern hospitality at this turn-of-the-century inn. Enjoy comforts like down bedding, homemade breakfast, and wireless Internet. Stroll through nearby Fisher Park or head down Elm Street for downtown. 205 North Park Dr., 336-274-6350, greenwoodbb.com

Grandover Resort & Conference Center

Enjoy the royal treatment at this resort, located on 1,500 acres of rolling hills. Rooms and suites offer views of the fairways, which earn national recognition. 1000 Club Rd., 336-294-1800, grandoverresort.com

Sheraton Greensboro Hotel At Four Seasons

With 250,000 square feet of meeting space, business travelers enjoy one-stop conveniences, including an onsite health club. Find a world of shopping next door at Four Seasons Town Centre. 3121 High Point Rd., 336-292-9161, sheratongreensboro.com

— Compiled by Megan Seldon



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