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Carr readies The Wharf Intercontinental, an ‘urban resort’ on Southwest waterfront (Video)

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The Wharf Intercontinental, which aims to open in 2017 at The Wharf in Southwest D.C., will be a big departure from the city's other Intercontinental-branded spot — the storied Willard Hotel.

Where the Willard is all monumental stone and cornices, The Wharf Intercontinental Hotel will be the brand's more contemporary version of luxury: clad in glass on two sides, an open-concept, glass-enclosed lobby with a restaurant whose glass outer wall will open up to the sidewalk, creating an interaction between diners and the waterfront.

"We want it to be a sort of urban resort, so when you're there, you'll be immersed in the wharf," said Austin Flajser, president of Carr City Centers, which will develop the hotel property. "The design capitalizes water views, which are unique in the city, where there's not a lot of true waterfront."

Carr closed on the property where the hotel will be built Thursday, solidifying the long-arranged deal for the 278-room hotel at The Wharf, the massive,



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entertainment and retail-focused waterfront development from developer Hoffman-Madison Waterfront. Carr City Centers declined to disclose a sale price.

The company also released more details about the hotel's amenities, including:

A 5,000-square-foot rooftop lounge with its own separate, glass-enclosed elevator that gives riders a panoramic waterfront view on the way up. (PSA for restaurateurs: Carr will be seeking tenants to run that lounge space as an independent concept, a process that will begin soon.)

Rooftop infinity pool.

A 12,000-square-foot junior ballroom on the rooftop level.

A 5,000-square-foot spa, also to be independently run and branded, on the third level with two walls of windows overlooking the Washington channel.

A 17,000-square-foot meeting space on the second floor.

A two-story presidential suite on the 11th and 12th floors with the same corner waterfront views.

Roughly 5,000 square feet of retail space on the ground floor.

Industrial and maritime touches will be included throughout the hotel, which is being designed by a collaboration between project architect BBGM and Parker-Torres.

"It's a more contemporary offering, but still trying to pay homage to the industrial working waterfront heritage," said Flasjer.

Construction on the hotel will begin in 2016 with the hotel slated to open in the second quarter of 2017.

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