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Austin's Hotel ZaZa set to break ground [Austin American-Statesman ::]

Oct. 08--Construction is set to begin on a 24-story tower that will include a high-end Hotel ZaZa and about 200 luxury apartments across from Republic Square Park in downtown Austin.

Z-Resorts and Gables Residential, which are partnering in the project, announced the groundbreaking exclusively to the American-Statesman. The apartments and 160-room boutique hotel are scheduled to open in late 2016.

The site, on West Fourth Street between Guadalupe and Lavaca streets, is currently used for parking. A building that once housed the Ginger Man pub, which relocated nearby, and the Ghost Room will be dismantled, but key architectural elements will be preserved and reused in the new building, whose architecture will be designed to blend with that of the surrounding Warehouse District.

The hotel will have two restaurants, a bar, a spa, conference and event space and a pool overlooking Republic Square Park. The apartments, which will be built atop the hotel, will have a separate, private rooftop pool.

The hotel entrance will be on Lavaca and the apartment entrance will face Guadalupe.

"We are very bullish on Austin and excited to be a part of the Austin scene," said Benji Homsey, president of Texas-based Z-Resorts Management LLC, the development and management group for Hotel ZaZa. "We think that our concept is going to find a very unique niche in the market."

Austin will be the third Texas market for the luxury boutique brand, which also has locations in Houston and Dallas.

ZaZa will join other hotels under construction downtown, including the 1,012-room JW Marriott convention hotel, a Westin hotel and the Hotel Van Zandt.

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