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Hampton Inn, Krieger's go upscale at the Highlands

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The new Hampton Inn & Suites and Krieger's restaurant at the Highlands at Forest Park will boast a more upscale look than their typical locations.

Gray Design Group is the architect for the projects, developed by Balke Brown Associates. Located in the northeast corner of the Highlands development near Hampton Avenue and Interstate 64, both the hotel and restaurant will be highly visible from the highway.

Geared toward business travelers, tourists and families visiting nearby hospitals and tourist attractions, the Hampton Inn design incorporates its traditional features while also including some unique design details to fit the style of the Highlands development. Similarly, the Krieger's restaurant will echo the architectural feel established in previous Highlands structures.

"We took the palate of materials and styles at the Highlands and have adapted the Hampton and Krieger's to fit the style," said Larry Milles, project principal, Gray Design Group, in a press release.

The Highlands office building and loft developments have a

very contemporary look, with curved elements, brick and metal accents. Gray Design has deviated from the typical Hampton Inn design by incorporating additional brick and curved elements on the exterior facade. The building also will feature four large, radiused cornices around the roofline and other aluminum

accents. Another difference is that the Hampton Inn will be six stories tall — most Hamptons are only three stories.

Like the hotel, the Krieger's will feature extensive brick, curved elements and aluminum accents. The two are connected via an outdoor courtyard that provides another dining option for

guests.

Gray Design is further upgrading the interior design of both the Hampton Inn and Krieger's. While guest rooms follow Hampton Inn's prototype, Gray Design has added richer materials and a more contemporary look to the hotel's lobby and breakfast area. The hotel also includes a large

meeting room to accommodate nearby office buildings.

For Krieger's, Gray Design has created a new freestanding prototype. Centered on a sports theme, the restaurant features a wall painted like an outfield wall, a concrete floor stained in the pattern of a dartboard and sports murals on the exterior. The Highlands Krieger's will further include a number of big-screen TVs.

General contractor BSI Constructors has begun site work for the Hampton Inn and Krieger's. Both will be completed by spring 2006.

Gray Design's project team includes Milles, Toby Heddinghaus, Mark Herman and Sonia Gil Ruiz.

Founded in 1982, Gray Design Group provides architectural and interior design services to many of St. Louis top companies and organizations. Through its design studio, Gray offers state-of-the-art 3-D CAD modeling/video animation. Recent projects include corporate facilities for Delmar Garden Enterprises, National Systems and Boeing. For more information, visit <http://www.graydesigngroup.com>.



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