

SOPHIE STATION RENOVATES

A VIP experience for Fairbanks business and leisure travelers



The freshly remodeled Summit Suite at Sophie Station Suites affords guests an opportunity to indulge in a one-of-a-kind luxury experience in Fairbanks. The condostyle, 1,581-square-foot unit is complete with:

- a full kitchen with Cosentino Dekton countertops, professional-grade appliances, a 10-foot island with seating for four, and an 11-foot walnut dining table that seats ten
- a separate living room with custom-built furniture, an 85-inch smart television, surround sound, and dedicated internet service able to accommodate hybrid meetings
- two bedrooms with king-size beds, custom-made furniture, 65-inch smart TVs, and a vanity/desk area
- two bathrooms with spa-like features, including custom-fabricated floor tiles, 3-by-7-foot walk-in showers with dual shower heads, and LED-lit vanity mirrors

As an added bonus, the unit's custombuilt dining table has caster wheels and can be converted into two sections for greater functionality. This gives guests the flexibility to accommodate meetings and even catering events for up to twenty people. Ideally situated on the hotel's top floor, the updated Summit Suite also features a large balcony for observing Fairbanks' beautiful vistas. Guests can also enjoy high-quality bedding, personal care items, and other amenities to enhance their stay. "We wanted to create one of the nicest—if not the nicest hotel rooms in Alaska," says Bobby Hanson, operations manager of Fountainhead Development Inc. (FDI). "The overarching goal was to create a hotel experience that is truly special and memorable."

Established in 1985, FDI is the largest independent hotelier in Fairbanks. Besides operating Sophie Station Suites, the company has two other distinctive properties: Wedgewood Resort and Bear Lodge. The successful Summit Suite remodel was a major feat for FDI, which persevered through the project despite supply chain challenges and increased material costs. The locally owned company was the general contractor and it also performed much of the design work, sourced all the materials, and fabricated many of the furniture pieces in house.

The chief objective was to create scalability, which involved working directly with material



Bobby Hanson, Operations Manager (left) with Mark Crook, Cabinet Shop Foreman (right) in the carpentry shop at Fountainhead Development Inc.

manufacturers and having its construction department perform all specialty carpentry work. FDI also engaged a freelance interior design firm with roots in Alaska, Jordan Shields Design, which ensured that the completed room conveyed a "Fairbanks feel." While the Summit Suite renovation was a complete gut job, FDI is using it as the design direction for the future. "We're going to take what we collectively love about this project and incorporate those elements into the furnishings and soft goods of the next block of rooms," Hanson says.

With its convenient proximity to the Fairbanks International Airport and downtown attractions. Sophie Station Suites is ideal for business travelers on corporate retreats, honeymooning couples, vacationing families, and anyone who desires an opulent, extended-stay experience. The hotel also offers on-site access to a fitness facility with updated equipment, firstclass bar with handcrafted cocktails, and a restaurant with inventive cuisine, catering, and room service. "Because of our great staff, excellent service, comforts of home, and prime location in the Golden Heart City, Sophie Station Suites should be your first choice when you come to Fairbanks."

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