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Seelbach getting \$10 million renovation

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The historic [Seelbach Hilton Hotel](#) in downtown Louisville is in the midst of a \$10 million renovation that will see its public spaces, ballrooms and Otto's Cafe all get significant upgrades.

The hotel's Medallion Ballroom, Mezzanine Ballroom and 10th floor Grand Ballroom all are being redone "top to bottom" with new wall treatments, carpeting, draperies and paint, according to general manager [Chris Crider](#), who joined the Seelbach in January.

Otto's, which is located off the main lobby on the first floor, will be closed for six or seven weeks, he said, for a "massive restoration" that will include opening up the restaurant to the lobby space.

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When it reopens in October, Otto's will feature a "magnificent and top-of-the-line buffet set up" for breakfast and lunch, he said.

Much of the Seelbach's lobby is being restored, including the marble and granite, which is being "completely honed and redone," Crider said.

Lighting is being upgraded as a way of "restoring the ambiance that was in the lobby," he said. New furnishings also are being added, and elevator cabs are being upgraded.

Public areas, including the grand staircase and mezzanine, are getting new carpeting and other improvements.

The Seelbach also is getting a new business center.

[Interstate Hotels & Resorts Inc.](#) (NYSE: IHR), the Arlington, Va.-based firm that owns the Seelbach, is serving as its own contractor for the project, according to Crider.

A portion of the renovation project will spill over into next year, he said, when the hotel replaces all of its bedding. Improvements also are planned to the air-conditioning system and roof.

"Everything will tie together when we're done with this," Crider said.

Located at 500 S. Fourth St., the 321-room Seelbach is a four-diamond luxury

hotel that opened in 1905. It appears on the National Register of Historic Places and is said to have inspired author F. Scott Fitzgerald to use it as the backdrop for Tom and Daisy Buchanan's wedding in "The Great Gatsby."

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