

AUSTIN CELEBRATES A NEW SKYLINE WITH AN ICONIC SPIRE DESIGNED BY GENSLER



With architectural spire complete on Fairmont Austin, skyline is dramatically changed

AUSTIN, TX – Austin has an inspiring new skyline and the second tallest tower, thanks to Fairmont Austin reaching its pinnacle. This week, Gensler, architect of the Fairmont Austin, will put the final touches on a special “lighted crown” that will both surround and illuminate the hotel’s signature, 170-foot tall architectural spire. That spire adorns the top of the elegant 452-foot tall, 1,048-room luxury hotel, which is located at 101 Red River Street. All told, Fairmont Austin’s height rises 590 feet. The combination of size and height make it Austin’s largest hotel, and second tallest building.

The spire is comprised of galvanized and epoxy-painted cylindrical tube steel, and its 170-foot height is the maximum allowed by the Federal Aviation Administration, according to Gensler. The new crown can be lit any color, or an array of colors, and will begin being programmed with various visual displays this week. As dusk falls, the spire will often be illuminated with calm white lighting, which depending on the occasion, can be scaled from subtle hues to dynamic applications of more than 15 million colors, including “chasing” light displays, where the lights sequentially flash on and off.

“The Fairmont hotel sits at Cesar Chavez and I-35, a key point of entry to downtown Austin. The spire stands atop the building as a beacon, marking that place—welcoming visitors to Austin,” said Pete Chalfant, Gensler’s Project Manager of the Fairmont, who is based in its Austin office.

Presently, the tallest building on Austin’s skyline is the Austonian at 683 feet. The debut of Fairmont Austin makes it the second tallest at 590 feet, followed now by 360 Condominiums, at 581 feet.

Douglas Manchester, President of Manchester Texas Financial Group, the project’s developer, said, “We are excited and committed to delivering an iconic hotel and look forward to providing best-in-class service for locals, businesses and tourists.” Reservations are presently being accepted for hotel rooms beginning in late November.

About Gensler

Gensler is a global design firm grounded in the belief that great design optimizes business performance and human potential. Our 5,000 practitioners networked across 44 offices use global perspective and local presence to innovate at every scale. Whether we are refreshing a retailer’s brand, planning a new urban district or designing a super tall building, we strive to make the everyday places people occupy more inspiring, more resilient, and more impactful. Recent accolades: #1 Architecture Firm 2016 Architectural Record; #1 Top 100 Giants Research: Ranking 2016 Interior Design; #1 International Architecture Firm, Green Design

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About Manchester Texas Financial Group, LLC

Manchester Texas Financial Group, LLC manages all Texas-based holdings in commercial real estate and hotel development for Manchester Financial Group. The company's first project is a luxury convention center hotel in Austin, Texas, where the firm is based. It is a subsidiary of Manchester Financial Group, a San Diego-based hotel and commercial property development firm. Founded in 1970, Manchester Financial Group has developed more than \$3 billion in assets in 11 states, employing approximately 3,000 people nationally. For more information: <http://manchesterfinancialgroup.com/>.

For more information about Fairmont Austin visit: www.fairmont.com/austin/

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