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GOING BIG

Major resort developments are carving a new era in the Wasatch Back

BY GIUSEPPA NADROWSKI

DEER VALLEY EAST VILLAGE

As the first major public Alpine ski resort development in North America in more than 40 years, Deer Valley East Village is set to transform the mountainside with a luxurious year-round, pedestrian-friendly destination that feels connected to the landscape while offering world-class hospitality for visitors and locals alike.

Leading the transformation is Extell Development Co. (EDC) in partnership with Reef Capital Partners. “We felt a responsibility to deliver something that honors Deer Valley’s extraordinary natural setting,” says Kurt Krieg, EDC’s executive vice president of resort development. “The architecture draws from the idea of a contemporary chalet village, using stone, wood, and glass to create a warm, human-scaled environment that feels connected to the mountainous terrain.”

Set to be completed in stages by 2030, the development will bring more than 800 hotel rooms and nearly 1,700 private residences, anchored by the Four Seasons Resort Deer Valley, the Waldorf Astoria Deer Valley, the Canopy by Hilton, the condos of Cormont, the Olson Kundig-designed Marcella Landing townhomes, and the recently opened Grand Hyatt. The development also includes almost 200,000 square feet of retail/commercial space and 68,000 square feet for recreation. In addition, residents and visitors will have direct access to the resort’s historic terrain expansion, now spanning 32 chairlifts and over 200 ski runs, as well as premium amenities like an ice-skating ribbon and an amphitheater. deervalleyeastvillage.com

THE SLOPE

Set on the Provo River with sweeping views of Mount Timpanogos, The Slope — Heber’s first Alpine village — is a new luxury resort from Angstrom Development Group (ADG) that prioritizes family-friendly experiences, outdoor recreation, and design-forward amenities.

“It’s meant to be a destination within a destination,” says Neil Goldman, partner at ADG. The walkable village includes an 85-key Andaz hotel, as well as 200 fully-furnished private condos and villas, 100,000 square feet of retail, a year-round tubing hill, and more.

“We’re trying to create an elevated family location,” says Goldman. ADG worked with Gomez Vasquez International Architects, as well as interior design firm weStudio to create spaces that foster connection between families and the outdoors — something Goldman believes was previously lacking in the region. For the aesthetic, Goldman encouraged the design teams “to blend the vibe of Kyoto with the family-friendly luxury resorts of the Alps.”

The ultimate goal, he notes, is to “create an environment where people just want to come, relax for a couple hours — or a couple days or a couple weeks — and just enjoy themselves.” theslope.com ■



PHOTOS, TOP DOWN: The Slope’s Neil Goldman says offering luxurious wellness-focused areas that foster connection was a priority at the resort — think saunas in every private residence, conversation pits in the villas, a rooftop restaurant, a plaza with farmers markets, ice bumper cars, concerts, and more.

“Every element from the ski beach to the hotels, branded residences, restaurants, and retail is intended to feel walkable, welcoming, and refined.” — Deer Valley East Village developer Kurt Krieg.

Principal Josh Chaiken, AIA, of Kohn Pedersen Fox, says the Waldorf Astoria Deer Valley’s architecture “engages the sloping terrain directly, stepping down in a series of terraces — each with its own amenity, its own relationship to the mountain — so the building feels less like an object placed on the site and more like an extension of it.” The hotel’s principal interior designer, William Harris, of AvroKO, adds that the goal was to “create a magnetic experience — one you simply don’t want to leave.”

Eran Chen, founder and executive director of ODA, the New York-based firm behind Four Seasons Deer Valley, says the challenge in designing against such an incredible backdrop was resisting “the temptation to compete with it.” He adds: “The Wasatch range doesn’t need an architectural statement; it already makes one. What it needs is a village that feels like it belongs.”



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