



Designs by Jon Pickard show a two-story extension with a third floor of screened utilities linking the Colcord Hotel with the future world headquarters of Devon Energy Corp.

RENDERING PROVIDED BY PICKARD AND CHILTON

# DEVON'S PLANS COULD ALLOW HOTEL TO REACH POTENTIAL

BY STEVE LACKMEYER

Business Writer  
slackmeyer@opubco.com

From the moment the Colcord Hotel opened for business, operators dreamed of making it the city's premier host for weddings.

Initially, the setting, across from the Myriad Gardens, looked ideal to Paul Coury, who restored the 99-year-old former office building and reopened it as a 108-room boutique hotel in 2006.

Jeff Erwin, hired by Coury as general manager a year after the hotel opened, sees upcoming improvements as key to the Colcord finally realizing its potential.

Plans unveiled Thursday by Devon Energy Corp., which bought the hotel last year, show a two-story addition attaching it to the company's new headquarters that will add about 8,000 square feet of meeting space.

Jon Pickard, lead architect on the Devon complex, said he began planning the addition by first asking, "What is the problem we're trying to solve?"

"There was a careful analysis of what the hotel is trying to deliver and then a look at what could augment the hotel to make it more successful," Pickard said. "If we had determined the hotel needed a 30,000-square-foot addition, that would have been challenging. But as it turned out, the hotel is wonderful. It just needed some nominal refinements."

## Design fixes problems

The resulting addition is glass-encased, similar to the Devon tower, but built on a scale more appropriate to the Colcord Hotel.

The addition also will allow for removal of utilities, which now act as an eyesore to the existing patio area behind the hotel. Pickard said relocation of the trash bins to an underground tunnel will make way for another big improvement to the hotel — a lush green courtyard.

He said plans for the courtyard, and for an enhanced front entrance and drop-off area, will be unveiled at a later time.

"This hotel is going to function as it should," Pickard said. "And the space in



Klay Kimker, vice president of administration, Jeff Erwin, general manager of the Colcord Hotel, and architect Jon Pickard discuss plans to create a courtyard in the building's patio and an extension that joins the hotel with the future headquarters of Devon Energy Corp.

PHOTO BY STEVE LACKMEYER, THE OKLAHOMAN

the courtyard will be phenomenal — it won't be your ordinary courtyard."

Klay Kimker, vice president of administration at Devon Energy, said Coury has continued to operate the hotel in a "first-class" manner as Devon has invested in additional artwork and decor. Kimker said the changes, matched with Coury's first-class accommodations for guests, will result in one of

the region's finest hotels.

"This will really blend well with a lovely building that is about to turn 100 years old," Kimker said.

"We are going to great lengths to make sure the hotel won't be negatively impacted by construction. And we are going to great expense to do that.

"We believe that if you close the property for any length of time you lose a bit of its integrity."