

Hotelier: Khan imagines fresh look for a historic property

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While a design has yet to be delivered, the hotel could come with an upstairs lobby, bistro, coffee shop and rooftop restaurant, catering to a high-end audience. Rooms could have small kitchens and living areas.

Khan said he expects the new hotel to open in 2023.

Renovation costs could come to an additional \$3.5 million, making the investment exceed \$6 million.

Owners hope to work with the city and the Seaside Museum & Historical Society to offer multimedia displays highlighting the history of Seaside, with photos, videos and memorabilia dating back to the 1800s. "We want to bring small-town history to the world," Khan said.

Steve Wright, president of the Seaside Museum and a Seaside city councilor, said the building is among the oldest commercial buildings in Seaside.

"I trust that Mr. Khan will very likely enhance the look of the building, as he has done with other Seaside properties that he has renovated," Wright said.

Khan anticipates approaching the state for historic renovation tax credits through Restore Oregon.



Taslema Sultana and Masudur Khan, new owners of the Gilbert Block Building.



Gilbert Block Hotel at the time of construction.

French-born Alexandre Gilbert was a veteran of the Franco-Prussian War in 1870 before following business interests to San Francisco.

According to Gilbert Inn Hotel history, learning in 1881 that land was cheap in Oregon, Gilbert and his wife Emma moved north to Astoria.

Struck by the rugged beauty of the Oregon Coast and the resemblance to his native France, he saw great potential and spent the next 54 years helping to develop businesses, property and communities in the area.

Gilbert moved to Seaside in 1890 and was elected

mayor in 1912.

Gilbert rebuilt the four-block Gilbert District at the intersection of Broadway and Holladay Drive after Seaside's fire in 1912 destroyed most of the city's downtown. The Gilbert Block Building was completed in 1914.

Gilbert later donated the land for the Promenade. He died in 1935 at age 90. After Gilbert died, his heirs sold his real estate holdings.

The section of the Gilbert Block Building along the Necanicum River was built in the 1940s.

In 2002, Avery Loschen and Will Perkins acquired the building at a time when the area was looking for a revival, with more empty storefronts than occupied ones.

During the last two decades, the Gilbert District has become a cultural and shopping destination for locals and tourists, anchored by Beach Books and the Fairweather House and Gallery.

Khan anticipates an early January groundbreaking at the property, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the hotel and his other real estate endeavors along South Holladay.

Mayor Jay Barber said he was excited about the recent purchase.

"Masudur's plans to re-

talize the block by supporting the current retail tenants while upgrading the historical appearance of the facade are reassuring," Barber said.

"... I am hoping that his dream and vision for the property in the heart of Seaside's business district will all come to fruition."

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Burly and the Bean Coffee Roasters will offer a variety of international beans, with the opportunity to purchase them pre-roasted or do-it-yourself roast. Drip coffee and specialty drinks will be available to-go, with limited indoor seating.

"You can come over and pick a different origin from somewhere around the world, something they've never tried before," Justin Boone said in a building tour. "Fresh-roasted coffee has a totally different taste."

Along with local coffee aficionados, Boone is aiming for visitors who want a rainy weather activity, or want to celebrate a special occasion. "It could say something as simple as 'happy birthday' on it," Boone said.

Employees will shadow novice users to introduce the roasting process, which takes



R.J. Marx

Visitors will have the chance to buy roasted beans or to roast their own.

about 15 minutes, he said.

Along with coffee, Burly and the Bean Coffee Roasters will offer local goods: Dundee's doughnuts, Dough Dough Bakery's biscuits, North Fork 53 tea from Nehalem and Gearhart, honey, jams, sauces

and nuts. Coffee equipment, including thermal mugs and presses from Planetary Design, a Montana-based company specializing in brewing and storage, will also be available.

Boone, 49, grew up in Snoqualmie, Wash-

ton, went to high school in Aloha. He moved to Southern California for the hot rod scene. "My first car that I built from the ground up was a '63 Studebaker," he said. "I went through a '31 Ford Model A to a '53 Chevy."

The couple, Seaside residents, have been married for eight years, with a 4-year-old son, Shiloh.

Justin Boone's first year and a half with Burly and the Bean has been a great experience, he said. "It's definitely had its ups and downs. At one point we lost all our employees. But we love it here so far."

Hours at Burly and the Bean Coffee Roasters will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to start, he said.

Boone believes the business will be one of the first of its kind. "We want to be able to hopefully use this as a model to build on to possibly other locations," he said.

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