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The remote retreat Sheldon Chalet in Denali, Alaska, opened in February 2018.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

New hotels and brand concepts are popping up all over the Northwest. BY ROGER GORDON

FROM ROBOTS AND FLEX BANDS to a one-of-a-kind unplugged corporate getaway, the offerings of the Northwest's newest accommodations range from the quirky to the serene.

Hotel Interurban - Tukwila, Washington

When Hazel at Hotel Interurban makes a room service call, guests may find her personality a tad mechanical. There's a perfectly good reason for that: She's a robot.

The 3-foot-tall, 20-inch-wide Relay robot from Savioke delivers food, towels, sheets—or whatever the request may be. Hazel is short for Hazelnut, a nod to the hotel's location in Tukwila. The city's name is derived from a Duwamish Indian word for "land of hazelnuts."

"We're the first hotel in Washington state to have Hazel. ... The robot, which we got from a company called Savioke, kind of looks like R2D2 from Star Wars," says General Manager Mike West.

Equipped with cameras, sensors and a map of the property, the robot is integrated with the elevators and phone system. "When she makes her way to the guest room, she'll actually call the room, and there's a notice saying that Hazel is there for a delivery. The guest opens the door, her lid pops open, and the guest takes whatever the delivery is. If Hazel has no requests in the queue, sometimes she'll go into "mingle mode" and entertain guests by telling jokes, posing for selfies or offering treats. Everyone loves her," says West.

Hotel Interurban, which opened in May 2018, has 185 guest rooms. It is also connected to 350 apartments, making it the first

mixed-use property in Tukwila. "The overall atmosphere is Northwest sophistication," says West.

Amenities include an indoor saline pool, a 24-hour fitness center, the Waterleaf Restaurant & Bar and the Urban Roast coffee shop. "Because of our location," says West, "there are a ton of team-building and post-meeting activities within walking distance, including an indoor skydiving venue and an upbeat bowling alley."

A 19th-floor ballroom can accommodate up to 260 guests for a seated dinner and up to 360 for a reception. Two other second-floor ballrooms can each host up to 200 guests seated and up to 260 for a reception. One ballroom can be broken down into two smaller spaces. In addition, the hotel has four breakout rooms and two meeting rooms.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SHELDON CHALET; (OPPOSITE) TATE CARLSON



Hotel Interurban's Relay robot, Hazel