

## Lobby open, plaza nearing completion as SandRidge Commons development continues

A tour of SandRidge Energy's headquarters in downtown Oklahoma City reveals work is nearing an end on the main tower's lobby while work is gearing up on the adjoining Braniff Building and construction of a new amenities building.

BY STEVE LACKMEYER [slackmeyer@opubco.com](mailto:slackmeyer@opubco.com)  1  
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Modern, upbeat dance and pop tunes fill the newly reopened lobby these days at SandRidge Tower as SandRidge Energy continues its \$100 million makeover of the former Kerr-McGee headquarters.

A recent tour revealed construction is entering into a new phase as work on the tower, 123 Robert S. Kerr Ave., is nearing an end.

Dozens of trees and plantings have been added along the street frontage along Robert S. Kerr Avenue. SandRidge spokesman Greg Dewey said the park area will be open for public use once it is completed.

“We will want people to come through, enjoy their surroundings, and even take a sack lunch and stop for a break if they want,” he said.

The south lobby, which will be the main entrance, is open again. Sunlight floods into area that previously was a relatively dark corridor under the previous ownership. Decorative metallic screening reflecting the sweeping lines in the SandRidge logo has been added to the two-story glass walls.

Paint has been removed and all of the original red brick on the neighboring Braniff Building, 135 N Robinson, has been re-exposed. The former alleyway wall facing east, toward the SandRidge Tower, is being removed for construction of a new modern facade.

Dewey said a restaurant tenant has been signed up for the ground floor of the Braniff Building. The restaurant and first floor lobby at the Braniff Building will be open later this year. Dewey estimates the remaining floors will be filled with SandRidge employees by mid-2013.

Visitors can now get a better view of the future plaza that will connect the SandRidge Tower and Braniff Building. A long outdoor canopy supported by just two piers will provide pedestrians covered passage between the two buildings.

Demolition has started, floor by floor, on the parking garage at 120 Robert S. Kerr. Rick Dowell, owner of the adjoining Dowell Center at Robert S. Kerr and Robinson Avenues, is adding windows and a new brick facade on the east side of his building as it is exposed by the removal of the garage.

Once the garage demolition is complete, Dewey said construction will begin on a new modern-design “amenities” building that will be home to a fitness center, restaurant, day care, rock-climbing gym and auditorium. The building is scheduled to open in mid-2014.