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## Expanded hotel remodeled with aviation theme

By John Wolcott  
SCBJ Editor



Many hotels have “east” and “west” wings. But those terms take on fresh imagery with the new aviation theme at south Everett’s recently expanded and renovated Best Western Navigator Inn & Suites.



Snohomish County Business Journal/JOHN WOLCOTT  
**The design of the recently expanded and renovated Best Western Navigator Inn & Suites in south Everett reflects the importance of aerospace and aviation in the surrounding area. Stretching across the parking lot, at the entrance to the hotel, is a giant aircraft wing previously used by a now-retired Boeing 727. Over the walkway and entrance to the inn is the top half of a fuselage from a Fokker F28 commuter plane.**

Navigator Inn & Suites, with the exterior décor changing from a residential neighborhood motif with wooden shingles to a multi-colored exterior of ribbed metal walls and curved roof lines reminiscent of airport hangars and offices.

The inn’s new emphasis reflects the influence of being close to Boeing’s 747, 767, 777 and 787 airliner assembly plant; Paine Field; Paul Allen’s Flying Heritage Collection of warbirds; the Seattle Museum of Flight’s aircraft renovation center; and the Future of Flight Aviation Center and Boeing Tour facility.

“Many of our guests are connected to the aviation industry or they’re tourists coming to see the area’s aviation exhibits. Now that the Future of Flight is providing Boeing tours on weekends, too, that’s a major attraction,” said hotel manager Bill Rode. “We’ve added a lot of amenities to the suites and expanded the whole building to provide 103 rooms.”

The much smaller Cambridge Inn has become the larger

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“My husband came up with the inspiration for the aviation theme one morning; then it started to take shape when one of our hotel guests turned out to be connected with Columbia Pacific Aviation in Moses Lake, a business that takes apart retired aircraft,” said Shaiza Damji, managing director of the hotel’s ownership, 360-Degree Hotel Group. “They had donated a 727 cockpit to the Future of Flight Aviation Center and Boeing Tour facility at Paine Field and he said they could provide us with a 727 airliner wing. That’s where our entrance canopy came from, too.”

Custom photography created the images throughout the hotel of a model aircraft on top of an aviation map of Everett, she said. At night, the path from the parking lot to the hotel entrance is lighted like runway landing lights.

“We got a lot of cooperation from the city of Everett on zoning and permitting. It was an unusual project, but everyone was enthusiastic about it, including the vendors and contractors,” Damji said. “We had to close down Highway 99 from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. just to move the wing into place. The truck driver said it was the most unusual delivery he’d ever made.”

The family-owned 360-Degree Hotel Group also operates the 151-room Hampton Inn & Suites in Lynnwood, the 169-room Hotel Nexus in north Seattle and the adjacent Berkshire Grill. Kenya native Nizar Damji, a resident of West Vancouver, British Columbia, is the founder and president of the group, with his wife, Mariyam. Their daughter, Shaiza Damji, is managing director, and her husband, Alif Nurani, is vice president of finance and development.

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