



Finnegans House is a multistory brewery, event space and business incubator that will go up as a part of a larger development at 525 S. Eighth St. in downtown Minneapolis. (Submitted image: Kraus-Anderson)

## New designs for Finnegans brewery, taproom

By: Clare Kennedy May 10, 2017 3:48 pm 0

Finnegans is putting the finishing touches on its new brewery and taproom, which is a key part of a high-profile development in downtown Minneapolis.

On Wednesday, the Minneapolis-based brewer and social benefit corporation released new renderings of Finnegans House, a multistory brewery, event space and taproom that will be built at 525 S. Eighth St. The lab is just one element of Minneapolis developer Kraus-Anderson's larger project at the site, which will include K-A's new headquarters, a 17-story, 307-unit apartment tower and a 158-unit hotel.

Until now, Finnegans has not had a facility of its own.

"This is going to give us a new platform to pursue our mission and really help us compete with everyone else [in the craft beer industry]," Finnegans CEO and Co-Founder Jacquie Berglund said Wednesday. "It's going to create a whole new playing field for us."

Finnegans House will cover about 14,000 square feet in all, spread over three stories, Berglund said. The tap room will seat 130 people. The building will also have a beer garden in the back, which will accommodate another 60 to 70 customers.

Finnegans House will also contain space for business startups that are oriented toward social change. Finnegans itself is one such business. The company uses its profits to fight hunger, most notably through its reverse food truck, a mobile food-donation program.

"Finnegans is going to be great. Their philanthropic approach and ties to the community really anchor the block," said Mike Hille, senior vice president of development at Kraus-Anderson.

Finnegans House will be completed in the second phase of the Kraus-Anderson block development, which is slated to wrap up in summer of 2018, along with the apartment complex.

Finnegans also announced a new partnership with Badger Hill Brewing Co. of Shakopee. The two have an alternating proprietorship agreement, which will allow them to coordinate brewing for both brands through Finnegans' Minneapolis location and Badger Hill's existing facility.

The agreement marks the end of a long-standing relationship with St. Paul's Summit Brewing Co., which has produced Finnegans' beer at its facility since 2003.

Executives for Finnegans were not available for comment on Wednesday. However, Badger Hill CEO and co-founder Broc Krekelberg said the two companies had been working on the agreement for about a year and a half. The move will allow both to significantly increase production in the leanest way possible.

"This will triple our capacity without stressing our system," Krekelberg said, estimating that the two will be able to produce about 50,000 barrels a year. "We're going to see tremendous efficiencies, with a 25 to 30 percent reduction in operating costs."

Kraus-Anderson's Hille said the total cost of developing the block is \$165 million. The first phase is Kraus-Anderson's headquarters, which is scheduled to open this fall.

The timeline for the development's hotel portion is still in question, Hille said. Kraus-Anderson is in talks with an operator, but the transaction has not yet been finalized. He declined to say who the operator may be.

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