

# Hotel Commonwealth

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2014-2015

## Renovations & Expansion

- OVERVIEW:** Featuring Boston's best hotel dining and an enviable Kenmore Square location around the corner from Fenway Park, Hotel Commonwealth ([www.hotelcommonwealth.com](http://www.hotelcommonwealth.com)) was a pioneer in jump-starting the urban renewal of the neighborhood upon opening in 2003. Its latest upgrades allow the hotel to exceed its own high standards for guest experiences, services and amenities while continuing to evolve alongside the neighborhood it calls home.
- RENOVATION:** Hotel Commonwealth's renovations to its entire collection of guest rooms debuted in summer 2014 along with the addition of three new theme suites in fall 2014. Renovation of the hotel entrance and lobby followed in the winter 2015.
- EXPANSION:** In summer 2014 and slated for completion by fall 2015, Hotel Commonwealth began an extensive expansion adding on a new wing that will include almost 100 additional guestrooms, more than double the existing amount of meeting space and a multi-functional outdoor terrace.

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## 2014 Renovations

- GUESTROOMS:** All 149 guestrooms have been redesigned, courtesy of New York's [dash design](#), to reflect a crisp, luxurious aesthetic. Infusing modernity with locally inspired accents, rooms are awash in fresh & soothing tones, houndstooth fabrics, carpets in iconic patterns and tasteful lounge seating. All guest rooms feature:
- New bedding
  - Upholstered headboards
  - Custom-designed bedside tables and dressers
  - Decorative, industrial-inspired lighting
  - Google Nexus tablets featuring a "virtual concierge" app which provides instant access to hotel amenities and services such as room service & mini bar, flight check-in, dog walking appointments and much more
- THEME SUITES:** Hotel Commonwealth introduced three new suites that pay tribute to its home in eclectic Kenmore Square – past, present and future.

*The Rathskeller Suite* pays homage to "The Rat," the legendary Kenmore Square live music club that once thrived where Hotel Commonwealth sits today. From 1974 to 1997, The Rat played host to The Cars, Dropkick Murphys, The Pixies, the Dead Kennedys,

The Ramones, U-2, Talking Heads, The Police and more. The Rat Suite brings to life the rock/punk past through a mix of “grit meets glam” materials, textures and memorabilia. A color palette of black, grey and silver serves as the background for custom lounge furniture inspired by “a band on tour.” Features include:

- Enormous “L” shaped couch welcoming guests and their “crew”
- Graffiti-inspired custom headboard
- Bose® CineMate digital home theater speaker system, complete with turntable to spin new & classic vinyl
- iPod loaded with music performed at “The Rat”
- Photo book with original club images
- Guitar Hero videogame featuring “The Rat”

Legendary Boston music personalities like **Ken Casey** of the Dropkick Murphys, **Dicky Barrett** of The Mighty MightyBosstones, **Henry Santoro**, veteran Boston radio broadcaster, and **Jim Herold**, The Rat’s former owner, acted as guest curators of the suite by donating and securing authentic memorabilia, including:

- Marky Ramone signed drumsticks
- Keyboard from the venue’s mainstay musician Willie “Loco” Alexander, who coined “The Rat”
- Original “Wall of Honor” bar mirror covered in band stickers
- The Cars’ Ric Ocasek’s blue guitar pick from 1979 tour
- Performance photo of Dicky Barrett from The Bosstones (pre-Mighty Mighty) in 1986
- Dropkick Murphys’ bass guitar

*The Terrier Suite* honors the rich athletic, academic and cultural legacy of Boston University, neighbor to Hotel Commonwealth, whose graduates include innovator Alexander Graham Bell, football & baseball star Harry Agannis and School of Theology doctoral graduate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Reflecting an appropriate collegiate style, The Terrier Suite references BU’s elite sports legacy and is peppered with memorabilia celebrating the school’s culture, alumni and history in Kenmore Square. Design elements include:

- “Wall of Fame” headboard
- Photo montage of archival news clippings
- Hockey net-inspired carpet and hockey gloves from the Terrier team
- BU scarlet-colored locker minibar
- Boston University monogrammed glassware
- Framed photos of notable alumni
- Large custom graphic tribute to beloved mascot, Rhett the Terrier

*The Loft* completely reimagines the concept of a “Presidential Suite” as an artist’s loft. Inspired by Boston arts neighborhoods like Fort Point Channel, the details and furnishings of the suite bring to life an “industrial chic” aesthetic, marked by:

- Vaulted 18-foot ceilings
- Painted exposed brick and steel details
- Large painted brick fireplace with seating area
- Photo mural tribute to Kenmore Square by Stephen Sheffield

- Rotating display of original artwork by BU College of Fine Arts students and local artists
- Abstract mural by Boston University art student
- Industrial lighting supported by exposed pipes
- Concrete carpet pattern & stone accent floors
- Steel and glass industrial partition doors
- Sculptural furniture pieces
- Studio/artists table for dining
- Pool table

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## 2015 Expansion

Working with architect [Group One Partners](#) and dash design, Hotel Commonwealth's expansion will extend the existing building over the parking lot at the rear of the hotel facing Fenway Park. An enclosed footbridge connecting the existing and new building will lead guests to the expanded space which features:

- 96 newly built 425 square foot guest rooms
- 6,000 square feet of meeting space
- 2,000 square foot outdoor terrace
- Fenway Park Suite overlooking the Green Monster
- 2 additional suites with walk-out balconies facing Fenway Park

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