

Oden Hughes caters to tech workers with new 350-unit apartment complex near The Domain

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At a time when more young professionals are [flocking to apartments near The Domain](#), Oden Hughes LLC announced Thursday construction has started on a 350-unit luxury apartment just north of an area known as Austin's second downtown.

Slated to open in early 2019 at 3001 Scofield Ridge Parkway, Lenox Ridge apartments will be at the southeast corner of MoPac Expressway and Scofield Ridge Parkway — less than five miles from offices for tech heavyweights such as [Apple Inc.](#), [Facebook Inc.](#) and [Amazon.com Inc.](#), plus Charles Schwab Corp.'s expanding corporate campus.

Lenox Ridge will cater to tech workers with a “community work studio” — taking a page from the dozens of co-working spaces that have cropped up around the city in recent years. But Oden Hughes wants the 1,600-square-foot studio to be a step above the business centers often found in apartment complexes. The studio's perks include private and community offices, meeting rooms, Wi-Fi, printers, scanners, an open-floor lounge and a hospitality bar.

Almost 9 percent of employed Austinites work from home — nearly twice the national average — according to the U.S. Census. Tech companies near Lenox Ridge often encourage employees to spend at least part of their time working from home. At Dell Inc., about 3,000 of the local employees already work remotely, the [Austin American-Statesman reported](#), and the company wants half of its global workforce to telecommute by 2020.



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The luxury apartments at Lenox Ridge will have units ranging in size from 600 square-foot one bedrooms to 1,380-square foot three bedrooms.

“Lenox Ridge will allow young professionals to have the convenient, on-site work space they need without having to pay more for a larger apartment,” said [Howell Beaver](#), Oden Hughes vice president of development, in a statement.

Oden Hughes will build the four-story complex from gauged steel, which is a relatively new building material for apartments, according to the company, although it's frequently used for mid- or high-rise construction.

“Rising lumber prices have made light gauge steel more appealing price-wise,” said [Eric Taylor](#), Oden Hughes construction president, in a statement. “We expect that it also will allow us to build more efficiently and result in a better product due to its precision, strength and durability.”

BlackSwan Steel will manufacture and fabricate the steel at facility in Houston, where 80 percent of the work required for framing construction will be completed before the material arrives at the job site.

Kelly Gross Architects and interior designer Peel Paulson Design Studio will shape the look of the luxury rentals.

Oden Hughes Construction is the general contractor on Lenox Ridge, and the company's management division will lease and manage the property. Rents prices are expected to range from about \$1,100 to \$2,000 depending on the layout and size of the one, two and three bedroom units. Oden declined to disclose the dollar value of the project.

Marissa Luck
Staff Writer
Austin Business Journal

