

COMMERCIAL

Interior design

The essential guide for Middle East interior design professionals

An ITP Business Publication

Mar Vol.5 Issue 3

SPA DESIGN

The art of creating total tranquility

MATERIAL GAINS

Choosing textiles and fabrics that are built to last

SHASHI CAAN

Straight talking from IFI's president elect

OUT OF OFFICE

Revolutionising the working environment with intelligent design



FEATURE SPA DESIGN



4



senses, must be state-of-the art and blend in with the whole concept.”

For Mohammed Nada, marketing manager of Kohler Middle East, the future of spa design lies in the soothing qualities of water. “At present, water is making a splash at spas in the US. Increasingly, spa users are adding water treatments to their list of traditional spa favourites. Spa experts say that the more clients know about the many health benefits of water treatments, the more likely they are to frequent spas, and to tell their friends about them.

“Water treatments help to ease muscle tension, cleanse and hydrate the body, condition the skin, promote joint flexibility, stimulate circulation, relax the body and open pores to eliminate toxins. Hence we will see more spas designed with water as the central theme,” he explained.

Man’s affinity with water is no recent phenomenon, Nada pointed out. “From the beginning of time, humankind has been drawn to water to soothe both body and spirit. And since 1873, Kohler has designed innovative products that bring the calming, revitalising power of water to our daily lives.”

From whirlpools and air baths, such as the Kohler Purist whirlpool with Spa, that stimulate circulation, hydration and detoxification of the body, to the Kohler WaterHaven collection of custom showering components, the company

offers a full range of facilities and accessories for the commercial spa.

The key to successful spa products lies in promoting the perfect balance between water, light, materials, sounds, accessories and elegant lines, according to Teuco. The company recently launched its HydroSpa Seaside, the first mini-pool equipped with Hydrosilence, the soundless massage that offers an experience of total relaxation. All artificial noise is eliminated and users can envelop themselves in the natural sound of water being moved by the jets, or music played out of invisible Acoustic Panel loudspeakers.

Designed by Giovanna Talocci, the Seaside 640 Hydrosipa includes underwater lights and perimeter illumination, and can also be equipped with chromotherapy features.

Offering an alternative range of materials to work with, France’s Steel & Style has partnered with French designer Inox to produce a range of high-end stainless steel spa and swimming pool products that promise a strong dose of elegance and modernity.

Its overflow spas use stainless steel and glass to create rectangular lines of a distinctly contemporary style, and offer hydromassage and colour therapy features. Meanwhile, its infinity or perimeter overflow pools feature elongated sides and rectangular shapes intended to evoke a certain classicism.

With a whole host of materials and products to call on, the pressure is on designers to create engaging, all encompassing spaces that appeal to a range of senses. “The conventional, three-dimensional room experience shall be extended to enable guests to feel, smell, and even hear the things they previously merely used to see,” Huber concluded. □

DESIGN CHECKLIST: SPAS

By Gerald Huber, regional director for the GCC, Schletterer Wellness and Spa Design

- * Closeness to nature: implement natural features within the design.
- * Include a smart combination of materials: combine wood with steel, water with fire, glass with grass, or hot and cold elements, to create an atmosphere of wellbeing.
- * Include fascinating and clever lighting solutions that are flexible and change according to the mood of the guest.
- * Create contrasts to the conventional.
- * Introduce elements that nobody would expect, such as hay in the sauna or milk for showering.
- * Appeal to all senses: combine experiences that you can see, feel, hear, smell and taste.

4. Steel & Style has partnered with Inox for its latest creation.

5. Kohler’s VibrAcoustic Bath.