

A long, narrow swimming pool in a modern spa. The pool is the central focus, with water reflecting the overhead lights. The walls are dark and textured, and the ceiling is also dark with recessed lighting. A central light fixture is visible above the pool. The overall atmosphere is sleek and contemporary.

five spectacular spas  
the 'now' list: 10 hip trends  
hd/iida product awards

# hospitality design

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## hospitality design



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Bathhouse, Los Vegas

Photographs by Andrew Gordon

### On hdmag.com:

- A discussion on the best ways to use artwork.
- Extra tips on specifying area rugs.
- And more weekly news and polls.

# The Dining Starr

Even by New York standards, where restaurateurs and chefs are treated like movie stars and covered by the press with unusual passion, Philadelphia restaurateur Stephen Starr is making quite an entrance. The veteran is making his Manhattan debut with Washington Square, a spot that boasts design by David Rockwell and a menu by celebrity chef-of-the-moment Marcus Samuelsson.

The star team is hardly surprising: Starr put Philadelphia on the gastronomic map—and the restaurant-design radar—with 10 restaurants, including the fêted Karim Rashid-designed Morimoto (the namesake of chef Masaharu Morimoto) and the Rockwell-designed Alma de Cuba (with Nuevo-Latino cuisine chef Douglas Rodriguez). With Washington Square, he is again betting big on his proven formula of mixing big-name designers with storied food. This time, "I'm equally excited to work with such an incredible talented young chef," he says.

The restaurant features three dining rooms—the main one lit by a five-foot, blue chandelier—overlooking an outdoor garden with ivy-covered walls, a white concrete bar with trellis backdrop, and a series of alcoves created with tiles by Todd Oldham.

Starr's conquest of New York is just beginning: Early in 2005, he'll open two more new restaurants, Morimoto and Buddakan, at the Chelsea Market in the trendy Meatpacking District. —MS



Top: Striped Bass. Above: Alma de Cuba.

the 'now' list



## A Brand-New Style

With their first hotel-based spa, Bathhouse in The Hotel at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, Richardson Sadeki—already celebrated for day spa interiors, furniture, and identity-packaging at Bliss and Skinkinic (when the firm was UT Architects)—has officially checked in to hospitality.

Their timing couldn't be keener: Hospitality wants to turn hits like the boutique hotel look into retail opportunities; and Princeton alums Clarissa Richardson and Heidar Sadeki were weaned on high concepts for retailers BMW, Prada, and Fred Segal.

While a sort of holistic brand wizardry is their passion, they hardly take humor for granted. Australia-born Richardson lists two years catering and five years cab-driving as career experience; Iran-born Sadeki intimates with a wink that puddle-hopping is a hobby.

But the more high-minded their projects are, the bigger the design brawl: Intelligent circulation, keen sightlines, and emotional light are staples. And since their inaugural project for Bliss five years ago, Richardson Sadeki has earned kudos for a style termed "urban lounge" and for their own witty line of furniture which mixes synthetic and natural materials—Conan tables and lambkin seating, for example.

What's on their minds now? As they have playfully posted on their company website, "We're still thinking. . ." (See Bathhouse on page 50). —KB



Left to right: The exterior of Skinkinic and a concept rendering for Virgin Atlantic Lounge.



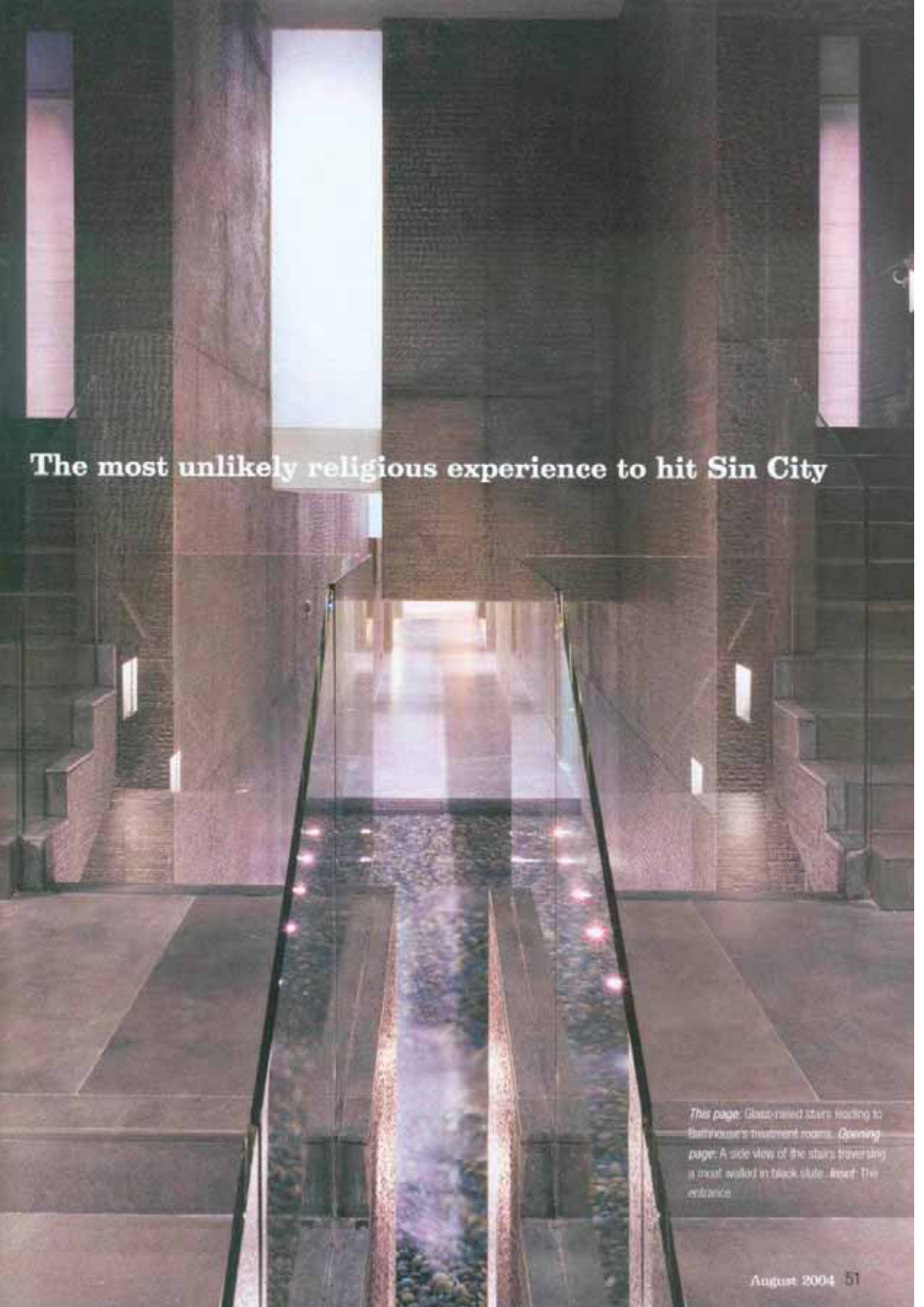
**from  
contemplative  
to  
sexy,  
it's a spa thing . . .**



By Kelly Bearton  
Photography by Andrew Bordwin

# leaving las vegas





**The most unlikely religious experience to hit Sin City**

*This page: Glass-railed stairs leading to Bally's's treatment rooms. Opening page: A side view of the stairs traversed by a meat walker in black slate. Inset: The entrance.*



**A temple of calm** lies beyond a second-floor entry above the lobby at Mandalay's The Hotel in Las Vegas. Bathhouse spa is a tranquil deep cavern: 15,000 square feet of corridors, communal pools and saunas, relieved by near-ecclesiastical shafts of soft light. And it's walled and paved everywhere in expanses of quiet black slate, applied in amounts not usually seen outside of a religious edifice. But the designers, New York City-based Richardson Sadeki (formerly UT Architects), aren't necessarily spiritual; they just believe a spa in Vegas should be.

Lobby/reception, men's and women's lounges and pools emerge around corners and at the ends of passageways on the main floor; then glass-railed stairs lead to manicure/pedicure areas and treatments (all but one of 13 rooms) on the mezzanine. The program is slow, ritualistic, immersive.

"We began looking at these paintings from the Baroque period, post-Renaissance when the relationship between man and God was reorganized," explains Heidar Sadeki, a founding principal. "The spaces in these paintings are calm with light coming from the top."

*Below: A corridor spanning a lounge and communal bathing. **Opposite page, top and bottom:** A first view of the lounge; and a reflecting pool.*



"It's the vocabulary we used to utter 'quietness.'"

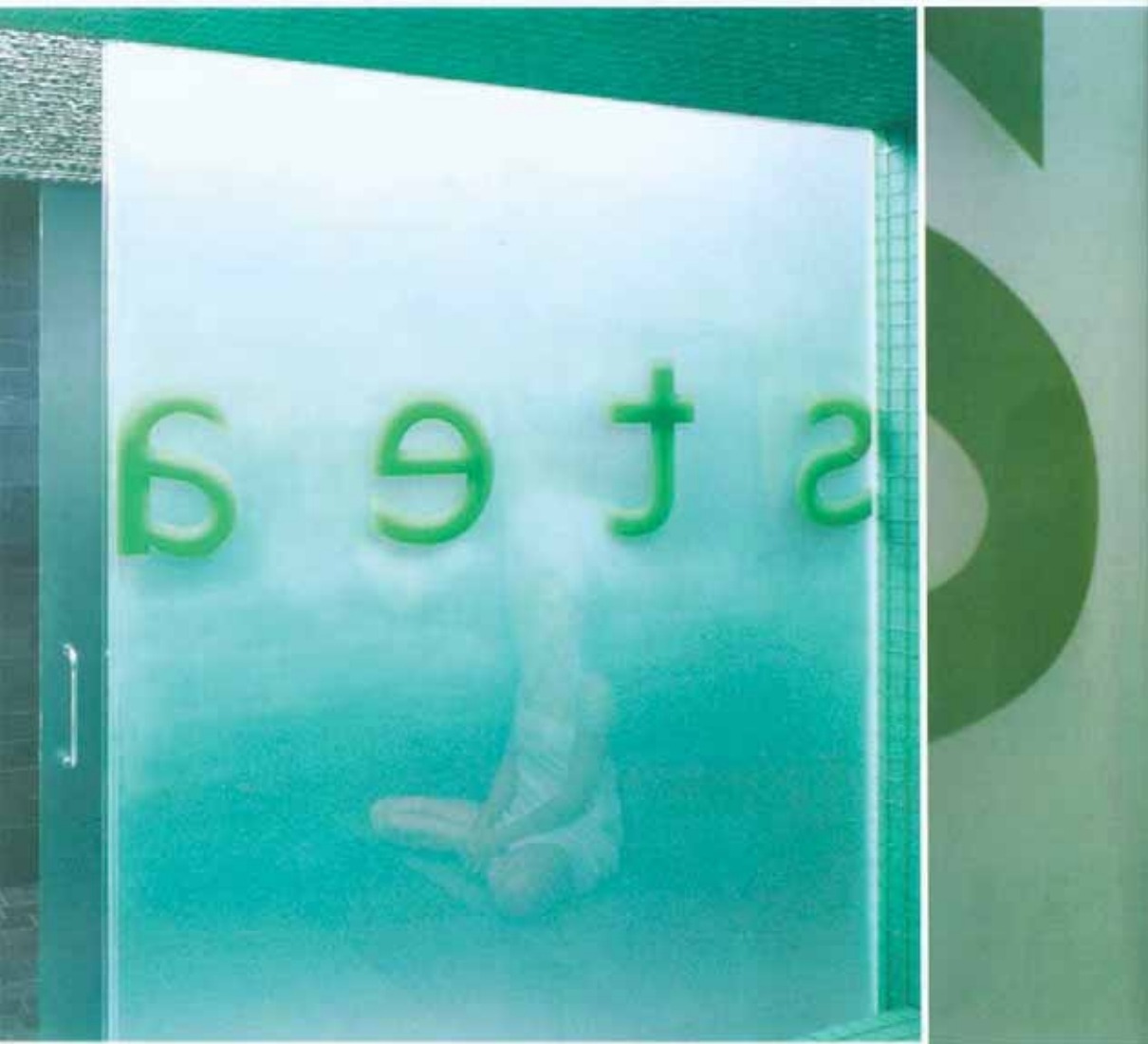




Bathhouse is his and founding principal Clarissa Richardson's modern interpretation of that ancient quietude. Materials help make the circulation through various grotto environments feel sacred and sequential. For example, covering 90 percent of the volume in black slate ("And that's no exaggeration," says Sadeki) injects the desired weighty calm. It also covers floors (only the lobby is white onyx), ceilings, and walls (sometimes sawn and chipped, flamed, or sandblasted for effect).

Private baths benefit from spatial sleight-of-hand: Tubs measure four-by-eight feet under dramatic 23-foot ceilings. "It's the vocabulary we used to utter 'quietness,'" Richardson explains.

Bathhouse eschews the fast pace of their last spa Skinklinic, but it does have Richardson Sadeki's hallmark affinity for narrative in its Gothic and Medieval moments. Call it an out-of-Vegas experience. **hd**



light manicure stations. *Below and opposite page:* Views of the steam room from outside and within.



**Bathhouse Spa**  
Las Vegas

**Owner** Mandalay Bay Resort

**Architecture/Interior Design Firm**  
Richardson Sasaki, New York City

**Project Team** Heider Sasaki, design director;  
Carissa Richardson, design director;  
Guillermo Garita, project architect; Alex  
Grossman, graphic design director; and  
Vanessa Ah-Chuen, junior architect

**Contractor** Mandalay Development

**Product Consultant** Cindy Palomares, CP  
Strategy, Inc.

**Lighting** Paldo Lighting Studio

**Engineering** Luchs Engineering

**Graphics** Richardson Sasaki

**Glass** Bendheim

**Wall Upholstery/Banquette Fabric** Toray

**Bench Fabric** Edelman Leather

**Bench Cushions** Thomas Paul

**Pendant Light** Kartell

**Day Beds** Paola Lenti

**Glass Tile** Ann Sacks