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# Spa: The Sensuous Experience

Robert D. Henry and Julie D. Taylor

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# Skinklinic



Long-time skincare and cosmetics executive Katherine Dwyer envisioned a "skincare clinic that feels like a spa." Thus was born Skinklinic, the first one opening on upper Fifth Avenue in New York City, USA (with additional United States sites in Connecticut and Las Vegas). Offering cutting-edge services for both men and women, Skinklinic knows you're busy, so it structures quick, walk-in treatments that promise visible results. Having anything but a medical feeling, the cool contemporary space merges the luxury of a spa with the science of skincare.

Like skin itself, the spa's design is a network of layers of transparency and translucency. The modern and clean space by New York City-based Richardson Sadeki Design starts to reveal itself behind black slate walls. A dramatic entry path leads you across a reflecting pool—literally transporting you from the grimy city into the clarity of the clinic. The designers looked to influences as direct as Mies van der Rohe's modernist Barcelona Pavilion and as evocative as Claude Monet's Impressionist *Waterlilies*. Once inside, the sparse palette of slate, glass, and wood creates an inviting atmosphere accented by colors of rust orange, cream, and the spa's signature purple. Adding interest to the refined color scheme is a variety of materials—glass-enclosed plastic partitions, synthetic leather and suede on seating elements, rubber and epoxy flooring, and richly grained wood cabinetry.

Before any treatment is given, your skin will be the subject of analysis ("skinscription") so the registered nurses can customize the proper skincare plan. Hydroxy acids—both alpha and beta—are used in treatments that exfoliate skin to increase its performance and allow fresher skin cells to surface. Glycolic treatments use the alpha-hydroxy acids, which are usually derived from fruit and milk sugars, to decrease wrinkles and increase collagen and elastin production. The Beta treatments use salicylic acid to break down whiteheads and blackheads for renewal of oily skin. Lasers are used for collagen stimulation, spot removal, acne treatments, capillary removal, and hair termination. Also featured are microdermabrasion, Botox® injections, and IPL (Intense Pulsed Light) that repairs sun damage and age with high intensity bursts of light. Your skin's many layers may never be the same.

Skinklinic's architecture recalls Mies' Barcelona Pavilion  
Photos: Dan Bibb



Far left: To meet your busy schedule, walk-in services are performed quickly  
 Left: Light and color play off reflective surfaces



Above: A path through the water delivers you to Skinklinic  
 Right: Transparent and translucent surfaces evoke layers of radiant skin

# Bathhouse Spa at The Hotel



The Hotel is a purposeful antidote to the giant theme hotels (think: King Tut, King Arthur, Kings County) that define Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. However, nestled within the large water-themed Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, The Hotel has a separate entrance, its own lounge and café, and a distinctive vibe. The all-suite hotel has an upscale, sophisticated design that you'd expect to find in a boutique establishment in New York City or San Francisco. The dramatic, art-filled lobby leads you to the breathtaking Bathhouse Spa on the second floor, where the goal is to bring you balance, beauty, and bliss.

New York City-based Richardson Sadeki creates a modern spa with drama and artfulness. The architects arrange 13 treatment rooms, wet and dry lounges, pools, private tubs, steam rooms, and saunas within 15,000 square feet (1,390 square meters) of multi-dimensional space made mostly of black slate and glass. Upon your arrival through monumental smooth-textured stone walls, you journey through a canyon of rough-hewn slate and illuminated water. Water is a major theme of the design, which draws inspiration from the traditional Roman spa experience, and appears as decorative streams and rainfalls, as well as in therapeutic soaking tubs, steam rooms, and plunge pools. The interplay between privacy and openness is brought out by the combination of free-flowing space and various degrees of transparency in glass doors and partitions. Contrasting light and dark also contributes to this interplay, with the deep slate giving way to brighter white in the locker, vanity, and treatment areas. This very contemporary design is warm and welcoming—and all encompassing, as the designers, who helped develop the concept for the spa, also created Bathhouse's corporate identity, retail packaging, and uniforms.

How could you go to Bathhouse and not partake of a bath itself? Calming, Herbal, Floral, and Mud concoctions highlight Bathhouse Baths, as do Asian ingredients, such as invigorating Chai Tea and soothing Green Tea. Many of Bathhouse's ingredients for scrubs and lotions sound like they belong on your shopping list, and make for delicious treatments. There are Yummy Scrubs of chocolate and cappuccino, as well as a Crème Brûlée Body Wrap. Other scrubs and wraps use milk, honey, cinnamon, honeydew, almonds, raw cane sugar, carrots, sour cherries, pumpkins, parsley, cucumbers, wild plums, and tomatoes. You can even do the Create-Your-Own Body Wrap by choosing a body polish, body masque, and moisturizer from a long list of luscious options. Several modalities—massage, facial, scrub, and wrap—employ Hot 'n' Cold methods of combining stimulating ingredients and temperatures with heat applications. After a long day of sightseeing (or standing by the craps tables) give yourself a Blue Corn and Avocado Mani/Pedi with blue-corn soak and scrub, fresh olive oil application, and avocado mask and lotion. And, since you're in Vegas, where the rich and famous come to play, be sure to partake in the Champagne Body Wrap and the Caviar Facial.

The stairway to the mezzanine at Bathhouse Spa at The Hotel crosses a rock-lined water trough  
Photos: Andrew Bordwin

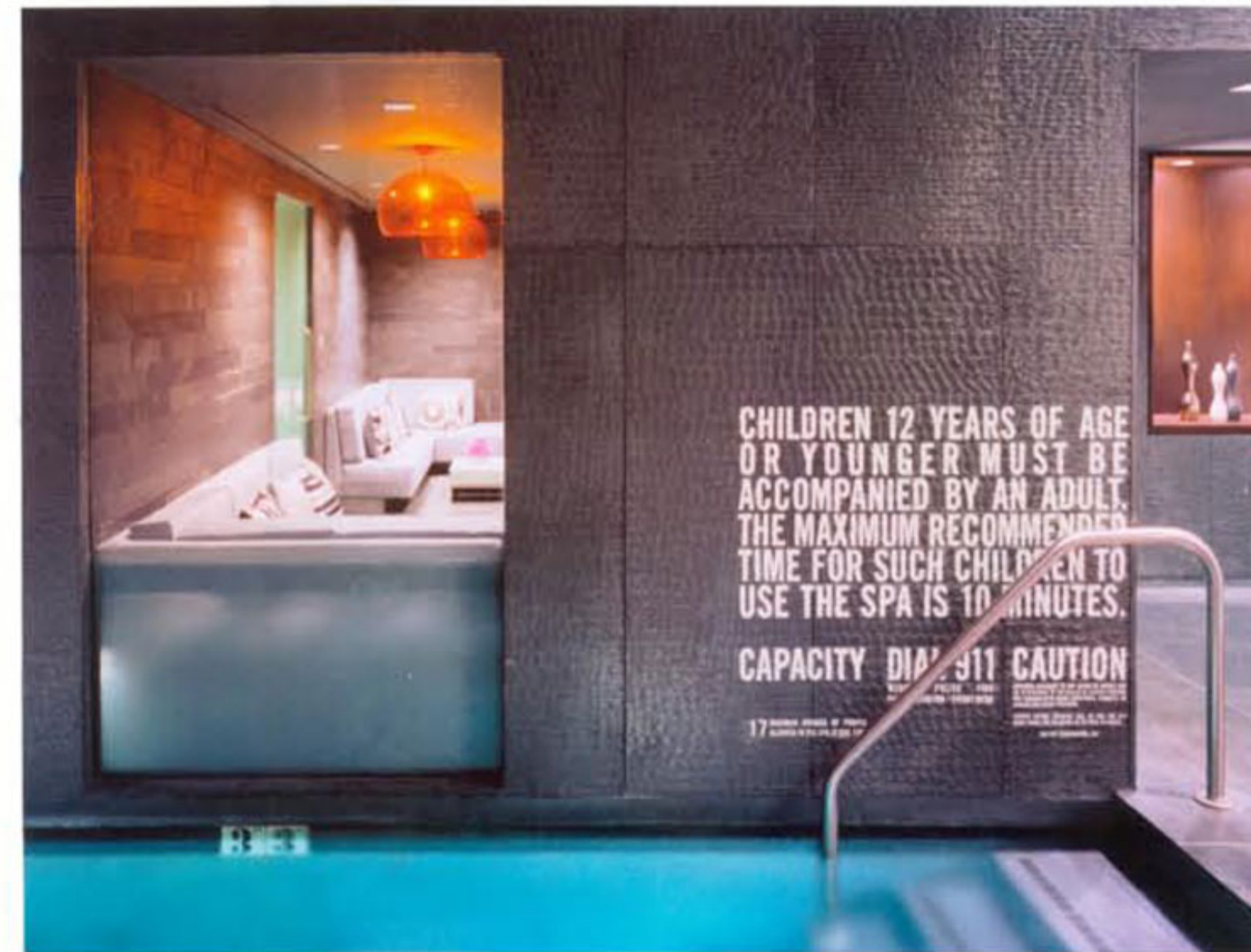


The seductive spa is on the second floor of The Hotel



Above: Hot pools and clear surfaces give a meditative atmosphere  
Right: Free-flowing floor plan leads to pools and lounges





Left: Treatment rooms are spare and contemporary  
Right: Locker rooms are lined with articulated white stone

Top: Rough-hewn slate, glass, and water are the dominant design materials  
Above: Layered spaces play on themes of intimacy and openness