

Modern Fixtures for the Home Shower



Evan Sung for The New York Times

Clarissa Richardson looked for shower fixtures at Davis & Warshow.

By TIM McKEOUGH

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AT the 40,000-square-foot Lapis spa at the renovated Fontainebleau hotel in Miami Beach, visitors are welcomed by a minimalist expanse of creamy white marble and frosted glass, and what Clarissa Richardson, one of the designers, calls “rain tunnels” — rooms that take the notion of showers to an extreme, with ceilings covered in 6-foot-by-18-foot showerheads.

Ms. Richardson, a co-founder of Richardson Sadeki — a Manhattan firm that has won numerous awards for its spas, including a Gold Key Award for hospitality design last year for Lapis — said she tries to replicate that feeling of expansiveness when designing showers for private homes.

“Creating the feeling of a spa at home is really about pulling yourself out of your regular experience,” she said, explaining why she prefers spare environments with modern fixtures. “The minimal approach is good because there’s less to distract you.”

To find bath fixtures with that pared-down look, she began at the Lefroy Brooks showroom in SoHo, which offers a range of styles, from classic to modern. Ms. Richardson was immediately taken with the simple shapes of the XO series. She particularly liked the XO 4013 concealed eight-inch ceiling rose, a showerhead that looked “so clean,” she said, because it is recessed into the ceiling.

Nearby, at the showroom of Davis & Warshow, a bath and kitchen distributor that carries products from more than 100 companies, she mused about the many different kinds of showers. Ms. Richardson said she likes both hand showers — wands that allow the user to direct the spray any which way — and body sprays like the Kohler WaterTile, which shoot streams of water from the side. But the Italian Fantini Acquatonica shower, which she found in the showroom, was even better, she noted, because it integrated the two features in a single unit.

Online, at lacava.com, she was drawn to the sculptural shapes of the Arch series, especially the Arch shower set, which had a stand-alone floor-mounted spout — the sort of setup that would make a powerful statement, she said.

“More and more, our clients ask us for that kind of thing” over a bathtub, she said. Even if you have “a very small space, like you get in New York, you can have a very luxurious shower.”

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