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THE SPA PROFESSIONAL'S CHOICE

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SPA ELEVEN, DELRAY BEACH, FL



# spa radar

a look at the latest spa trends, offerings, and retail items



The couples treatment room incorporates nature by featuring a single tree illuminated by an open light well.

## Urban Oasis

Providing a peaceful and contemplative escape from city life, **Spa Orient Retreat** in Taichung, Taiwan's second largest city, is a breed apart from other Taiwanese spas. While most are found in department stores or other commercial buildings, Spa Orient Retreat is one of the first stand-alone spas in metropolitan Taiwan.

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ABOVE: A teak-wood bridge connects the floating island with café tables to the spa's entryway. TOP RIGHT: The relaxation lounge is representative of the spa's interior, which features local redwood and contemporary furnishings. BELOW: The hydrotherapy room is bathed in soft light to create a relaxing ambience.

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Designed by Robert D. Henry of Robert D. Henry Architects (New York City), the two-story spa reflects a new identity for the growing spa brand. "Spa Orient Retreat is the largest spa entity in Taiwan with 20 locations in Taiwan, several in the U.S. and Canada, and future plans for a rollout in mainland China," says Henry. According to managing director Shenyn Wang, the design was meant to reflect the spa's fresh image as well as incorporate the surrounding environment and city culture.

Henry accomplished that by creating a water garden that is open to the public. "A nutrition café along with reflecting pools, custom tree planters, and fountains were carefully designed to create a nurturing environment that draws passersby into the spa and introduces them to a distinct Spa Orient Retreat philosophy," says Henry. "By creating a sensuous guest experience, we introduce the sophisticated urban clientele to a new spa experience."—*Heather Mikesell*

