american spa

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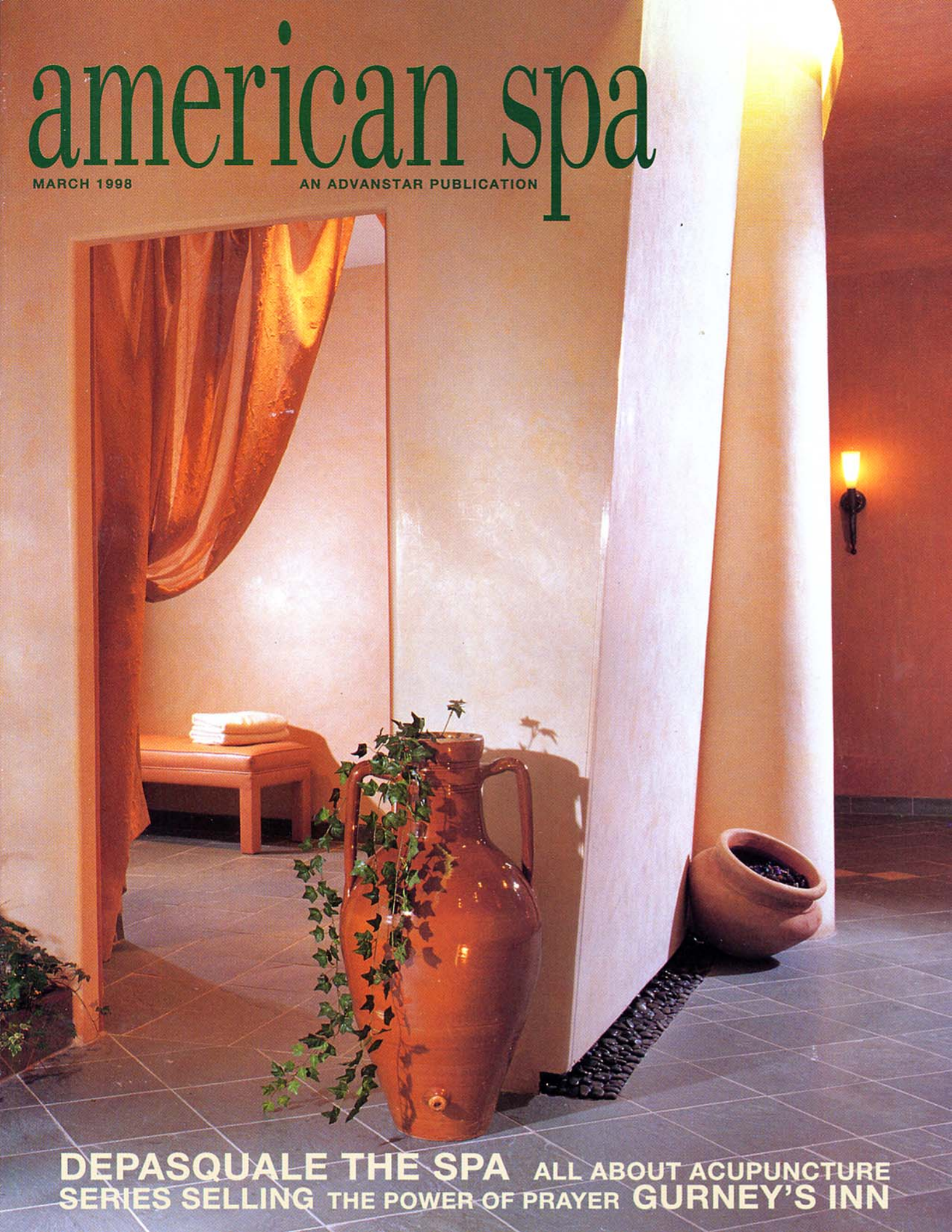


DEPASQUALE THE SPA SERIES

SELLING THE POWER OF PRAYER

ALL ABOUT ACUPUNCTURE

GURNEY'S INN

melting spot

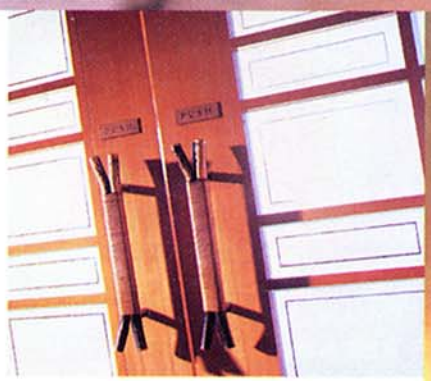
BY ROBBIN McCLAIN

Italian, French and Japanese influences blend together luxuriously at DEPASQUALE, The Spa.

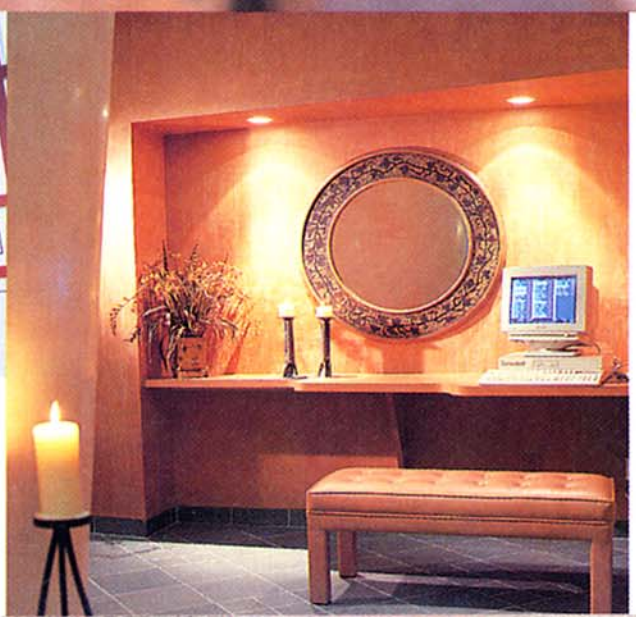
When Carmen DePasquale began renovating his spa, he didn't intend to mix and match design elements. But, as it happened, east met west. "I started out with a European influence in the French promenade and the Italian piazzas in the salon area," says DePasquale. "Then, I designed the spa doors with a Japanese feel and it seemed right."

Together with architect Robert Henry, New World Design Builders and Takara Belmont, DePasquale has fused European decoration with Asian tradition in a most sensual way. The spa features two water walls—one in the relaxation area made of natural slate and one in the salon crafted from recycled glass. Hard edges have been eliminated throughout; instead curved, slanting walls lend a relaxed fluidity. A finish of club soda, milk, pigments and plaster hand-painted by an artist adds variety to surfaces.

PHOTOGRAPHY: ANDREW GARN



AN INTERNAL SET OF DOORS CRAFTED FROM PEAR WOOD LEND AN ASIAN FEEL.



OPPOSITE PAGE: THE CUSTOM-MADE JAPANESE STEEPING TUB IN THE SIGNATURE SUITE. *ABOVE:* THE SPA ENTRANCE FEATURES A FIREPLACE AND COMFY COUCHES. *LEFT,* TECHNOLOGY MEETS SERENITY: ONE OF THE SPA'S 37 COMPUTER TERMINALS

NAME: DEPASQUALE, The Spa
LOCATION: Morris Plains, NJ
YEARS IN BUSINESS: 14
OWNER: Carmen DePasquale
SERVICES: Massage, body treatments, hydrotherapy, facials, nail services, makeup, haircolor, cutting and styling
CLIENT BASE: Mostly women, ages 25-55
SQUARE FOOTAGE / NUMBER OF ROOMS: 15,000 / 9
FURNITURE MAKERS: Takara Belmont

MOST POPULAR SERVICE:
The DEPASQUALE Experience—a soak in a Japanese steeping tub, an Italian rain shower and a massage
MOST RECENT SERVICE ADDED:
Panthermal Purification Skin Treatments
PRODUCT LINES USED: ABBA, Avancé, Biogenol, Clarins, Framesi, Sebastian, Trucco
PRODUCT LINES RETAILED:
Same as those used
PRICE RANGE: $12 to $220

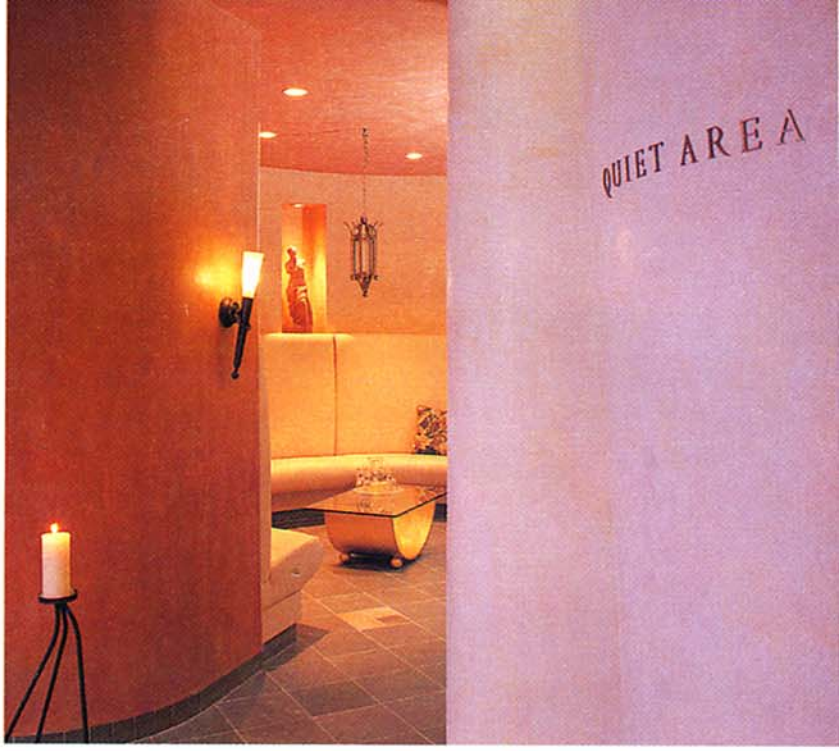
Imported European sculpture, wall hangings and ceramic pots meld with Asian zen garden rocks bordering the tile floors.

The spa features two sets of doors, designed to soften the energy from the adjacent salon. The first leads to the reception area, complete with fireplace and comfortable couches. From there, internal doors open to a corridor of individually decorated treatment rooms. The Signature Suite features natural sandstone floors and deep blue recycled-glass walls. A custom-made Japanese steeping tub allows for a solitary or shared soak.

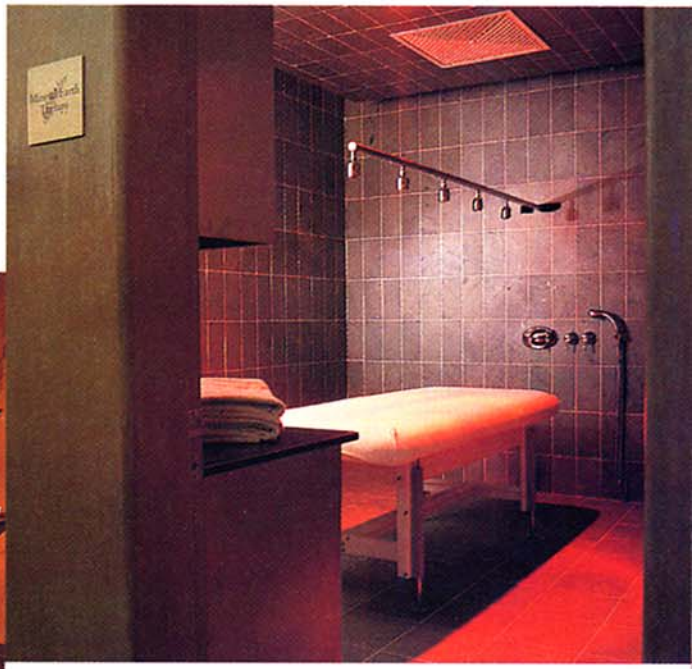
For a different kind of relaxation, the Monet Suite wraps clients in Impressionistic beauty—hand-painted walls inspired by the artist's water lilies, surround the hydrotherapy tub. In the Rainforest Suite, clients experience Panthermal Skin Purification treatments among natural woods and lush greenery while mud wraps and sea salt glows are given in the Mud Earth Therapy Room.

While each element inspires awe, DePasquale views the whole ambience as his real accomplishment. "When we look at any one treatment, we lose the objective of the spa," he concludes. "My goal was not to build a steeping tub or a Rainforest Suite. My goal was to create a true journey of the senses." ●

ABOVE: THE MONET SUITE; *RIGHT:* THE RAINFOREST SUITE



HARD EDGES HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED; INSTEAD CURVED, SLANTING WALLS LEND A RELAXED FLUIDITY.



TOP: CLIENTS ENJOY THE SKY LIGHT AND SLATE WATER WALL IN THE QUIET AREA.
ABOVE: THE MINERAL EARTH THERAPY ROOM