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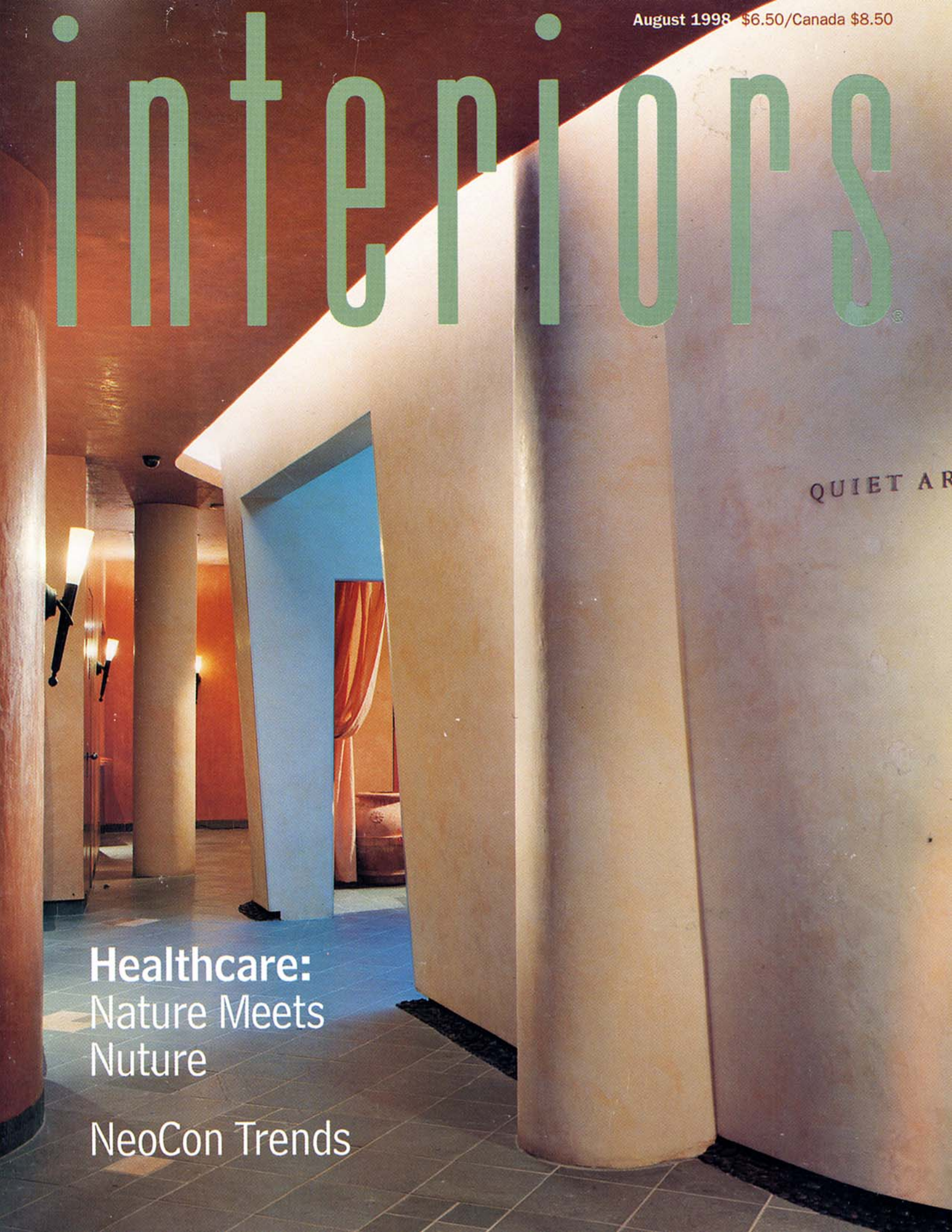

Healthcare:
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NeoCon Trends

Morris Plains, NJ

DePasquale|The Spa

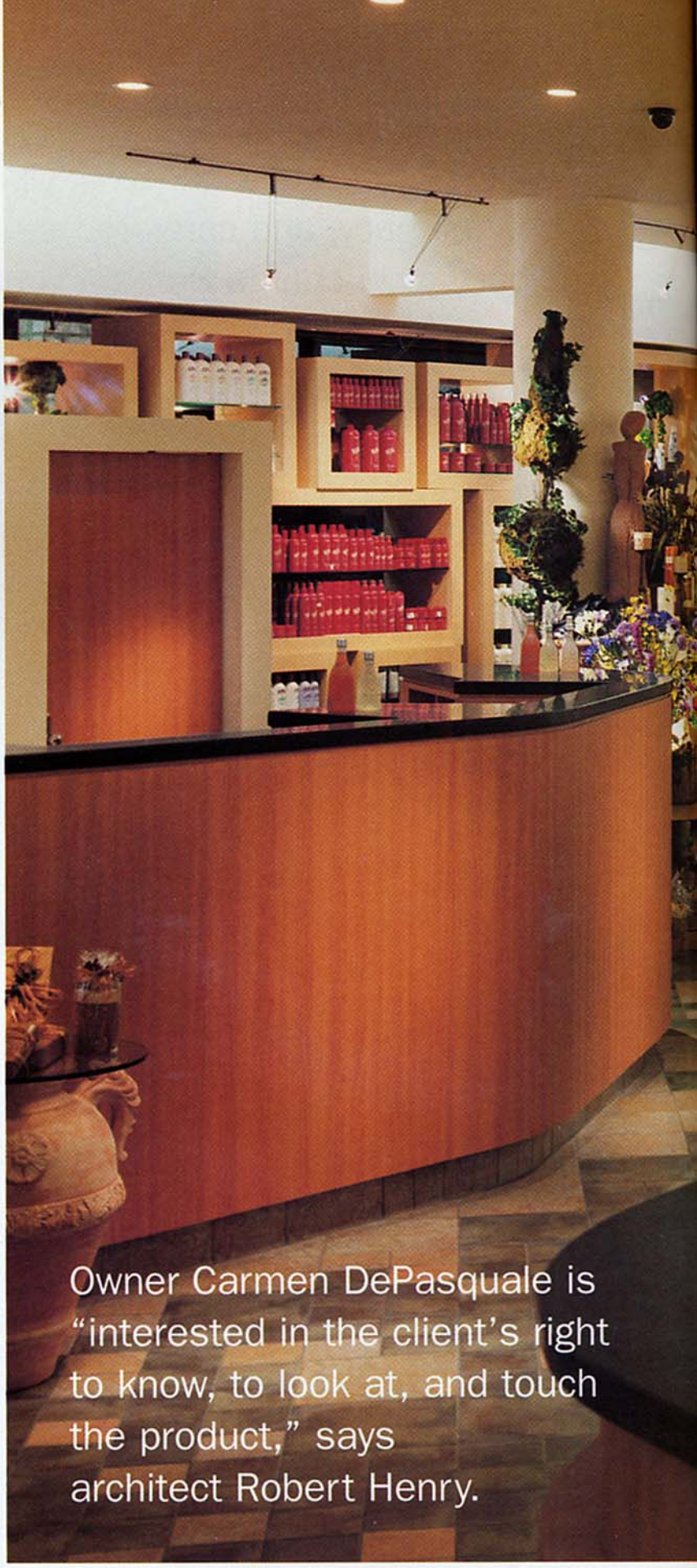
Robert D. Henry Architects

Nestled in a strip mall in the affluent New York suburbs is DePasquale|The Spa, a luxurious Tuscan-toned temple to wellness and beauty. Even Manhattanites are making the 40-minute pilgrimage to entrust themselves to owner Carmen DePasquale's expert care. Since opening a small salon in the mall 13 years ago, DePasquale has steadily extended his space and menu of services, culminating in a new 15,500-square-foot renovation designed by Robert D. Henry Architects. DePasquale's exponential expansion in fact mirrors the incredible growth of the spa business as a whole.

Having designed high-profile salons for clients like Peter Coppola and Sahag Studio, Henry focuses on design solutions that "creatively enhance the client's philosophy and culture." DePasquale is inspired by all things Italian: Salon clients are greeted by a bustling, elliptical "piazza," offering a reception desk, changing rooms, retail area, and complementary cappucino bar. This central space opens onto a series of "piazzettas"—shampoo, styling, color, and nail stations—connected by a serpentine wall of hand-rubbed plaster that creates a graceful promenade. Colors and materials reflect a Mediterranean mindset as well: earth-toned slate and porcelain floor tiles, custom pearwood cabinetry, pastel walls, and original artworks convey casual elegance.

Henry's attention to detail layers the space and enages the five senses. In the "cleansing" area are a topaz-glass mosaic water wall, plantings, and imported shampoo chairs, while a pastoral mural and floral fabrics accent the manicure area. Lighting throughout is an expert equation of natural and artificial sources, with styling stations lit from three angles, and a sweeping skylight that blends color-correct light with daylight over the color station. The salon is employee-friendly as well, with open storage walls for easy towel-bin removal and product restocking, and 37 computer stations located throughout to expedite billing and customer service.

Etched-glass doors delineate the high-energy salon from the serene spa, its own waiting area a residential-style space with sofas and fireplace. The spa is a quiet, cocoonlike space with low lighting and leather banquettes, and stucco walls that float above a bed of river stones. An interior volume encases slate-showered changing rooms, with the nine treatment rooms ringing the perimeter. "Each room is an environment within itself,"



Owner Carmen DePasquale is "interested in the client's right to know, to look at, and touch the product," says architect Robert Henry.

Located on the "piazza" is a relaxed retail center, featuring an assortment of product lines and samples and a makeup artist. Custom desks: Bon Hagelgans; benches: designed by RDH Architects, fabricated by The Interior Group; light fixtures: Artemide, Juno & Bruck.

Robert D. Henry Architects
is a New York-based, full-service firm offering planning, architecture, and interior design, including specialty lighting and furniture design. Their projects have been cited for excellence by the American Institute of Architects and featured in numerous publications including *The New York Times* and *Metropolis*. The firm's diverse practice includes residential, salon and spa, restaurant, resort, and office projects.

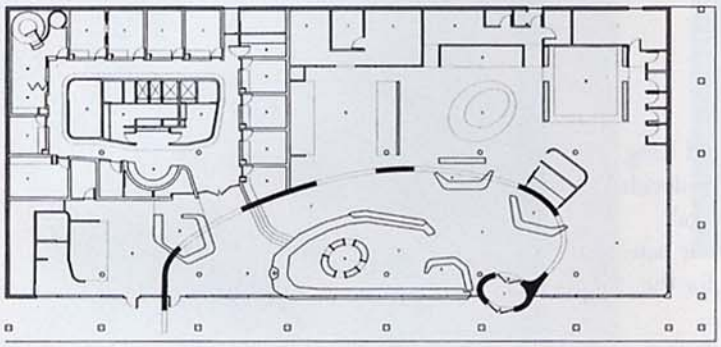
Project credits
Client: Carmen DePasquale
Architecture: Robert D. Henry Architects
Design team: Robert D. Henry, Chris Kofitsas, Robert Svetz, Norman Litfen, Takara Belmont
Interior Design consultant: Lori Weatherly
General contractor: New World Design Builders
Graphics consultant: Real Design, Margot Perman
Lighting consultant: GL Lites ON, Gadi Benyacov
Signage: Margot Perman
Photography: Peter Aaron/Esto, Jimmy Cohrsson
(details p. 67)

"Each room is an environment within itself," says Henry.

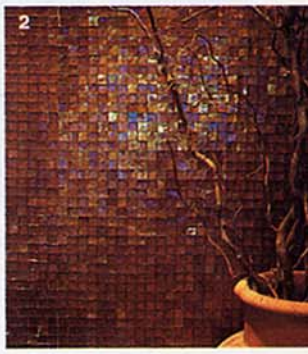
says Henry; certain hydrotherapy rooms feature custom teak millwork and Monet-inspired wall murals, while the signature "DePasquale Experience" suite features a Japanese steeping tub encased in blue-glass mosaic. HVAC, music, and lighting are individually controlled, and the preferences of regular clients are kept on file to prepare rooms for their appointments.

Anticipating the client's every need, DePasquale also includes a private salon room for persons undergoing cancer treatments or burn victims, a plastic surgeon's office, Kuts4Kids (an adjacent hair salon and playroom to entertain children during treatments), and a soon-to-be-completed 3,000-square-foot suite to accommodate bridal parties and other groups.
● *Kate Hensler Fogarty*

A blue-mosaic Japanese steeping tub and adjacent shower are part of DePasquale's signature treatment. Steeping tub: designed by RDH Architects, fabricated by Cliff Startup and Mario Galdi Mechanicals.



Daylight entering through a skylight in the color area is filtered or enhanced by computer to maintain an even level. Custom desks: Bon Hagelgans; salon stations, cabinetry: Norman Litfen, Takara Belmont; light fixtures: Artemide, Juno & Bruck.



Attention to detail enhances the experience. Custom hand-wrapped copper door pulls and torchieres **(1)**; the splashing sound from a glass-mosaic water wall **(2)**; modular retail displays that allow both vignette views and natural light **(3)**; and a hand-rubbed plaster wall the color of Venetian copper **(4)**. Torchieres: designed by RDH Architects, fabricated by GL Lites ON; polished plaster: Eva Buchmuller.