

European Spa

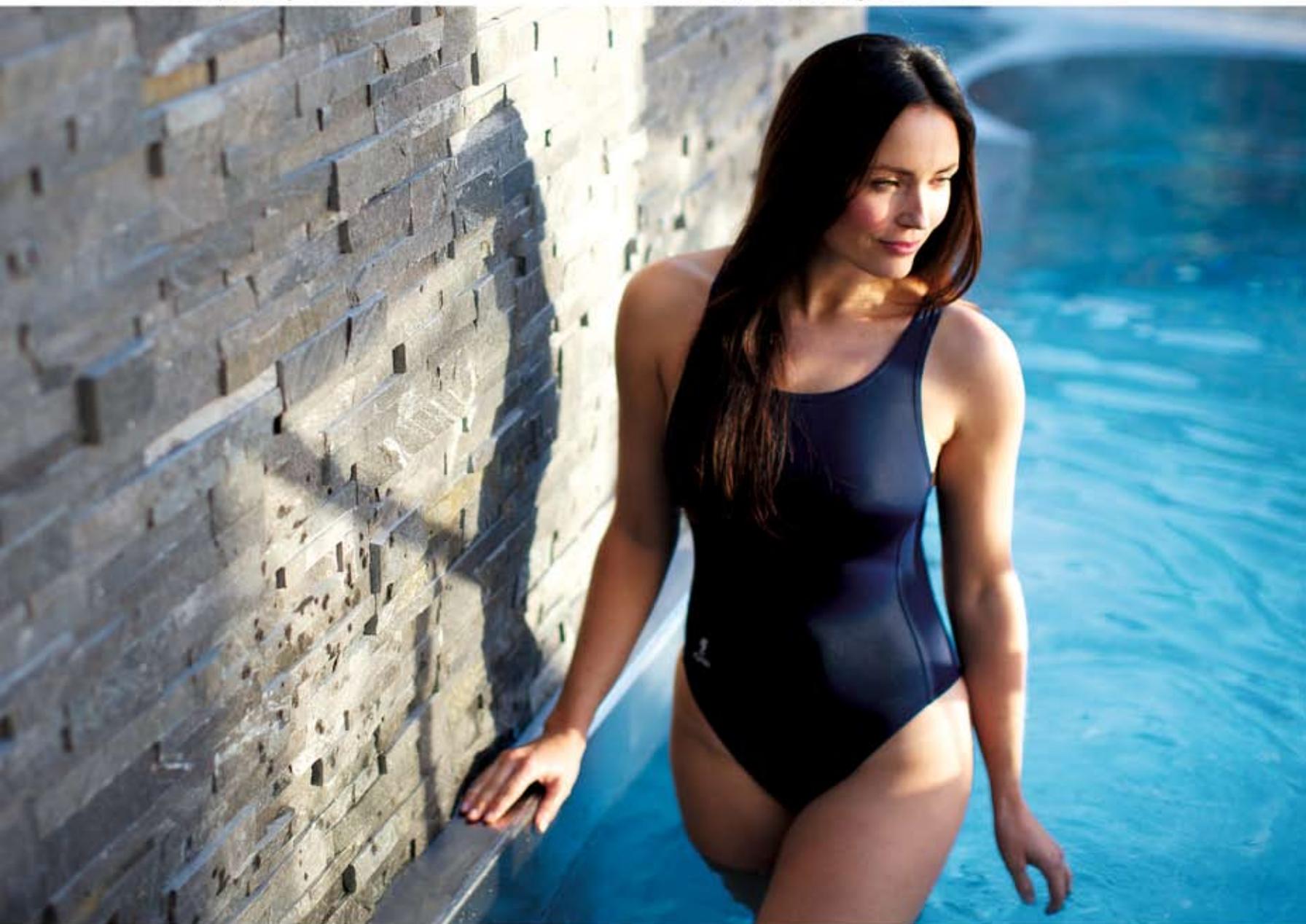
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Y SPA AT WYBOSTON

Inside the evolutionary new spa by Melt Design Hub

RELAX & ROAM

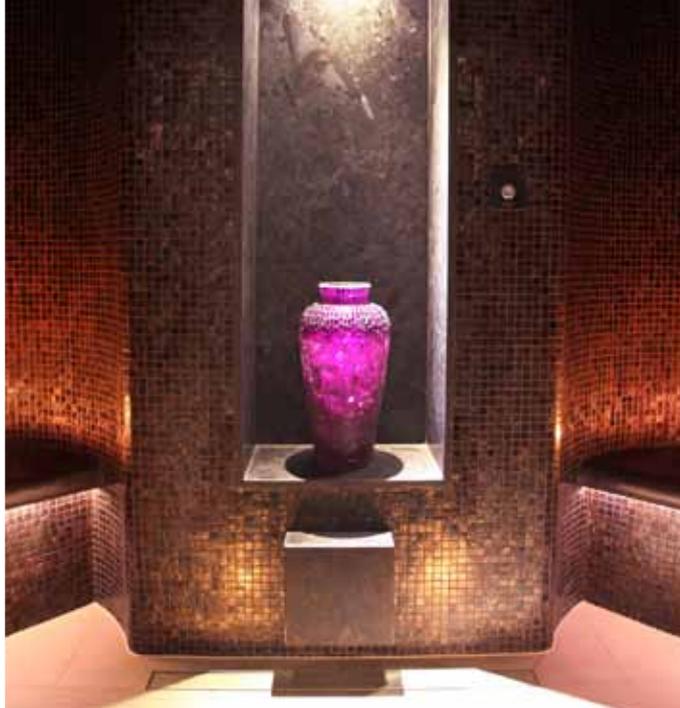
How creative use of outdoor space can enhance your spa

DIAMOND LIFE

Natura Bissé's Patrica Fisas reveals global expansion plans

ON THE MENU

Celebrate Spring with the latest product innovations



English elegance

Renowned spa consultant Neil Howard takes us on a tour of Stanley House Spa in Lancashire, UK

After more than 30 years in the global hospitality and wellness markets Neil Howard, who founded Howard Spa Consulting in 1994, remains an industry pioneer. Responsible for the creation and management of premier spas including those at The Armani Hotel in Dubai and the Monastero Santa Rosa on Italy's Amalfi Coast, its current projects include spas at the Palazzo Versace in Dubai and the Dormy House Hotel in the Cotswolds, UK.

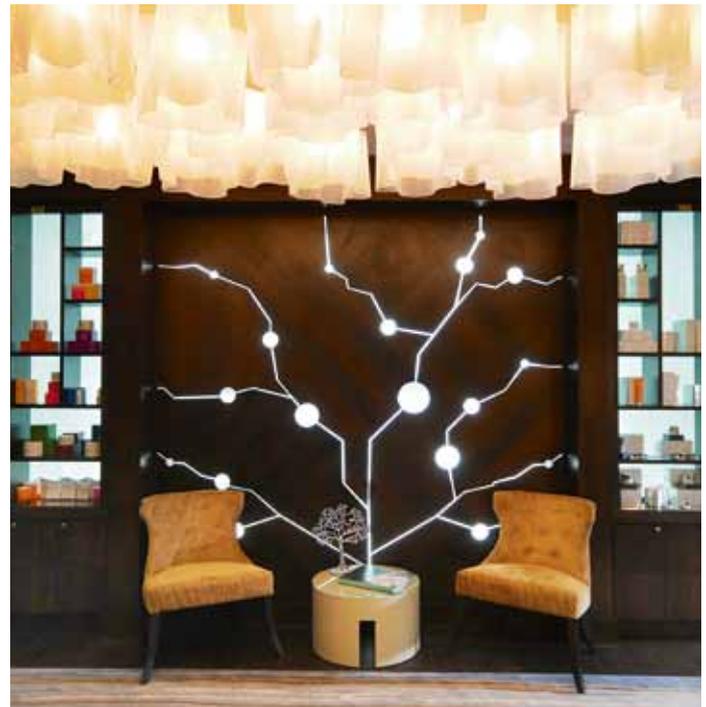
The group had two of its creations listed among the 11 Best-Designed Spas in the World by *Architectural Digest* and one of its most recent projects was the privately-owned Stanley House Spa, which opened in late 2012 in the heart of Lancashire, as part of the Stanley House Hotel in Mellor.

The spa's interiors were designed by Trevillion Interiors, whose portfolio includes Raymond Blanc's Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, while its heat and hydro facilities were designed by Barr + Wray and Thermarium. The project was delivered by Howard Spa Consulting.

The spa's 'rural escape' theme runs throughout the facilities, which include a range of treatment rooms, relaxation rooms, a thermal suite, hydro pool with mood lighting and a Finnish sauna with panoramic rural views.

As Howard explains, many of the hotel's key attributes were interwoven into the spa's concept. "Building on the individual identity and clear locational asset of Stanley House was key to the spa brief," he reveals. "We focused on creating a spa gently influenced by classic English design while reinforcing its distinctive location to ensure guests would benefit from the reference to rural surroundings. The soft, fluid shape of the loose furniture and light fittings comfortably sit within the contemporary clean lines of the building's new architecture."





“The individual’s spirit feels elevated due to the sense of space and quality of finishes throughout their spa journey”

Neil Howard,
Howard Spa Consulting

Clockwise from above: Many of the hotel’s key attributes were interwoven into the spa’s concept, with the interior design drawing significantly on the hotel’s undulating landscape; a spacious and light arrival space includes a ‘one-on-one’ seated check-in; the thermal suite and hydro pool feature a floor-to-ceiling glazed sauna; a private dressing area allows guests space to feel relaxed; the spa’s herbal sauna; the salt steam room is one of the thermal experiences which are grouped together to encourage a sequential bathing journey



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This concept was delivered in a unique yet subtle way throughout the spa's interiors. "The contemporary interior design draws significant influence from the hotel's panoramic and undulating landscape," explains Howard.

"The natural shapes, textures and colours used in the spa are very relevant to Lancashire and have been carefully woven into the developed scheme. A tranquil palette of soft browns and greys – with a hint of turquoise – is enlivened with vibrant fresh greens and warmed with touches of smoky terracotta."

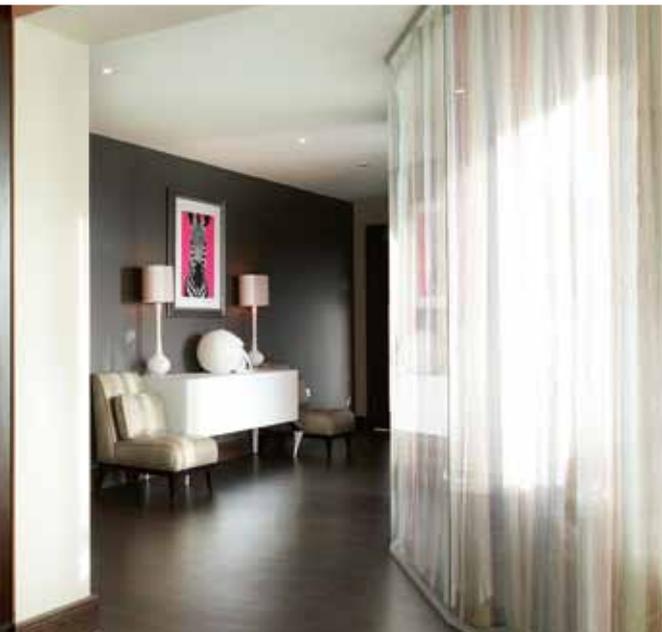
A sense of luxury and personal attention was also crucial to the concept. "We created a spacious, light and airy arrival area," says Howard. "This focus on comfort and space was carried through the rest of the design, ranging from a 'one-on-one' seated check-in area and private dressing rooms to a comfortable spa lounge with a choice of seating types and each treatment room being luxuriously sized. One of my favourite elements is the double-aspect, single corner suite, which has the added benefit of a hydro-bath with views of the surrounding rolling hills."

Stanley House Spa is a project that Howard remains rightly proud of. "It has an uplifting quality and was purely designed to relax spa guests and inspire contemplation," he explains.

"The individual's spirit feels elevated due to the sense of space and quality of finishes throughout their journey. Each space within the spa is fresh, soft, personable and calming to enable guests to feel valued as an individual from the moment they arrive to their departure."



Clockwise from left: The spa's male and female dressing rooms; the luxurious heat and hydro experiences were designed by Barr + Wray and Thermarium; the soft shape of the loose furniture in the reception hall sits within the contemporary clean lines of the building's new architecture; the sauna benefits from views of the surrounding landscape



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Design Summary

Stanley House Spa,
Mellor, Lancashire, UK
Located at the heart of the Stanley House Ribble Valley estate, the contemporary spa was designed with a strong, individual identity as well as a repeated acknowledgement of its beautiful rural English surroundings
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