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HOUSE & HOME

At the New Miami Standard: Water, Water Everywhere



Photographs by Nikolas Koenig

The new Standard Hotel, Miami, André Balazs's renovation of the former Lido Spa on Belle Isle, is as much a spa as it is a hotel. Mr. Balazs said that it was inspired in part by his adolescence, which he spent in Sweden — where the sauna is central to daily life — and in part by the 10th Street Russian and Turkish Baths in Manhattan, which he has always loved, “all gnarly as they are.”

Shawn Hausman, a production designer in Ojai, Calif., who has designed the interiors of all of Mr. Balazs's Standard hotels — Miami is the third — said he drew on both “light and airy” Scandinavian design and the colors of southern Florida in creating the spa's interiors.

The manicure and pedicure room, top left, has fake red leather seats set against a saturated blue background that echoes the view of the Miami sky and Biscayne Bay seen from the room. In the circular skylit Wall of Sound shower room, top right, the showers are mini-waterfalls, and speakers play recordings of ambient sounds like the

waterfalls, and speakers play recordings of ambient sounds like the wind whooshing through trees and crickets chirping, as well as rock 'n' roll.

The Scandinavian influence shows up in the pale ash used for the slatted walls and ceiling (similar to the slatted wood found in saunas) in a hallway, above left, leading from the spa check-in desk to the entrance of the hammam, which includes a marble steam room.

The bar, above right, has walls covered in beige wool, set off with midcentury modern chairs by the Danish designer Ole Wanscher newly upholstered in red-orange wool, and leads through the entrance on the right to the hotel's sun-filled restaurant, where Eric Ripert of Le Bernardin is the chef.

“The bar doesn't have windows,” Mr. Hausman said. “It's more of a refuge away from the sun.” Rooms are \$195 to \$750 a night. The hotel is at 40 Island Avenue, Miami Beach, (305) 673-1717.

— ELAINE LOUIE