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Vdara Health & Beauty at CityCenter **Creating an Oasis of Calm**

Robert D. Henry Architects unveils “Emotional Architecture” at Vdara

Las Vegas, NV - Robert D. Henry Architects has brought their signature sensuous-modern design sensibility to Las Vegas with their design of the 18,000 square-foot two-level Vdara Health and Beauty spa, salon and fitness center, within City Center Las Vegas. An orchestrated journey, this sanctuary provides an episodic experience for guests punctuated with hypnotic water features, exotic design elements and cocooning treatment cabanas, making it a haven of sustainable luxury. Emotional architecture engages every sense and through its commitment to environmental practices Vdara Health and Beauty will be the first Las Vegas spa in the Green Spa Network, and Vdara has achieved LEED® Gold certification by the U.S. Green Building Council through its recycling program, sensitive material selection and its energy conservation systems.

Vdara Health and Beauty features two levels, each floor expressing its own distinct character. The hotel elevator opens directly onto the “high-energy” lower floor Spa Reception Area. As guests enter they are welcomed by the soothing sound of water cascading from the upper level falling into a reflective pool below. This floor provides a light filled social space where guests can browse in the Spa Boutique, enjoy a glass of bubbly at the Champagne Bar, enter the full service Hair Salon or partake in the energetic Fitness Studio. The curved stair of white glass and warm sapele wood beacons guests to the upper level. Curving behind the Reception Desk and wrapping around the water feature, guests are symbolically “purified” as they ascend to receive their treatments on the floor above.

The upper spa level is reserved for “calming-energies” cocooned within a rejuvenating atmosphere. An intimate Waiting Lounge lies atop the stair, featuring original artwork and low comfortable seating. The Changing Areas are situated at opposite sides of the lounge and are laid out in a linear procession with marble portals distinguishing the various changing zones. Both men’s and women’s Changing Areas culminate in an Aqua Lounge. Large steeping baths surrounded by stacked white marble walls are interrupted by a perfect ocular opening which reveals a dynamic water flow cascading down the glass into a spillway before dropping into a soaking tub below. A steam room and sauna are encased with graded turquoise glass complimenting the thermal rejuvenation circuit of the Aqua Lounge.

After passing through the changing process, guests are lead down a hall lined with a 5 ft. high ribbon of miniature garden of exotic succulents set amidst drift wood and river stone; to the Waiting Area with the calming sounds of a central granite water feature. A ‘Hall of Whispers’ paved with tactile hand-set mink stone entices guests along the curving path to the Wellness Cabanas. The cabanas are woven together by a ribbon of sapele wood; its texture undulating floor to ceiling. Flowing upwards toward the ceiling, the wood ribbon articulates the treatment room entryways and drops back to the floor creating a pedestal for custom designed light fixtures, emitting a soft turquoise glow. The juxtaposition of linear forms with the curved floor plan, divulges a rhythmically sensuous promenade. The cocooning cabana interiors are finished with warm honey colored sapele millwork and accented with turquoise hued glass. Concluding their wellness regimens, guests retire to the Tranquility Lounge where they observe hypnotic candle light accompanied by a soundscape of hushed cascading water. This heightened sensory experience provides an emotional release creating an enduring lasting memory.

The Vdara Health and Beauty delivers the perfect escape from the energy and excitement of Las Vegas in a sophisticated and sustainable environment. As spa patrons journey through the space their senses are engaged, their minds quieted and their body reinvigorated and replenished by this sensuous retreat.



ABOUT ROBERT D. HENRY ARCHITECTS:

Bob Henry, founder and principal of internationally renowned architectural firm, Robert D. Henry Architects, a full-service firm, offering planning, architecture, interior design and brand identity, has been called the “sensuous architect of serenity” for his unique architectural style and design philosophy. In 2007, he was inducted into Hospitality Design’s “Platinum Circle” in honor of his lifetime achievements in producing hospitality projects that invoke all five senses. His numerous accolades include a *Boutique Design* award for the “Most Innovative Hospitality Concept” at the *G Spa & Lounge at the Hotel Gansevoort*; a *Hospitality Design Magazine* award for “Best Hotel and Spa” for Orient Retreat in Taiwan and *Gold Key Award* for the *Ajune Medical Spa* in New York City. His design of New York’s *Potion Lounge* appears on the cover of *Bars, Pubs and Cafés: Hot Designs for Cool Spaces* (Rockport Press). *Contract* magazine listed him as a top young architect and designer for 2001. Bob Henry’s portfolio of notable projects includes *Canyon Ranch Living Wellness Tower* in Chicago, Il., Steve Wynn’s 40,000sf *Wynn Resort Spa* in Las Vegas, N.V., the *Spa at the Mar-A-Lago Club* in Palm Beach, Fla., for Donald Trump, and the AIA Award-winning *Pasquale Building* in Fort Lee, N.J. He is currently working on designs for the Mandarin Oriental Miami Spa and The Setai Spa in New York City. Henry regularly lectures at the International Spa Association’s (ISPA) Conference in the U.S., Asia and Europe and is co-author of *Spa: The Sensuous Experience* (Images Publishing Group).

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