The Current Style Preference Is Set In Motion With **Concrete** And **Water**...

By LINDA CORREIA | Photos by JAN VAN PAK

Concrete is an aggregate of gravel, rocks, and sand combined, of course, with water.

THEN...

Architecturally speaking, Frank Lloyd Wright was a pioneer of concrete constructions. His internationally acclaimed "Falling Water"—a prominent residence in Pennsylvania—was dubbed the "rebel in concrete." Wright followed it up with other famous concrete structures like the Johnson Wax Building and the Guggenheim Museum.

...AND NOW

Portland Cement has rapidly expanded its applications to create some very life-saving uses for concrete—like *cellular concrete*, which is presently being tested for use in major airport runways. This material is set on special "parallel" runway lanes to allow major airline carriers to stop their planes in the event that they have mechanical or brake failures.

Concrete, a material with a past, is the material of the future.

Concrete has been reborn as a durable, but sophisticated, material—one which provides unlimited and versatile applications. In the kitchen designed by Ralph DaVinci of DaVinci Designs, concrete is used in the beautifully-colored vanity, cabinet and counter tops.



Thirty years ago, architect Andrew Wynyk, while working under Mojo-Stummer, designed the Nubest Spa and Salon. In their newest renovation, Nubest owner, Michael Mazzi, has helped the spa, once again, set the current style preference through the use of concrete floor tiles and a built-in waterfall wall. The flooring is uncomplicatedly stylish, while the water wall invites the "calming power of water" into the space.

Nubest Spa and Salon

Representing a unified and clean-lined aesthetic, the redesigned spa is a minimalist environment with a clear interest in the seamless flow of space and services.

The materials chosen represent a limited, coordinated palette consisting of rich wood veneer, pre-cast concrete floor tile, natural stone (onyx, limestone), and variegated translucent materials—including different types of glass and fabric. Metal is employed for its durability as well as its power to accent.

Aesthetically, the materials used in the new spa décor help convey the important aspects of the spa experience. The concrete tile floor and stone speak to solidity and durability; the wood veneer lends an air of warmth and softness. The glass and translucent materials invite in light and a feeling of freshness, while the tile surfaces used as backgrounds and accents serve as clean finishes to the design program. Suspended fabric ceilings filter the indirect light source, and the water wall introduces the active aspect of flowing water with its attendant allusions to invigoration, cleansing and rebirth. The sound of cascading water serves as both a greeting and a soothing auditory backdrop for spa treatments and pleasures.

The individual rooms, while varying in layout and function, have the same sense of purpose about them. Every programmable requirement is built-in, resulting in a clean, clutter-free environment. The rooms with water have surface-mounted, sculpted, vessel-like sinks that provide interest and complete a highlighted composition of stone countertops, wood surround and iridescent tile accents. The rooms without water have a highlighted area using similar materials accented by an aqueous glass and stainless steel light.

The well-orchestrated and purposeful layout of the site serves to highlight the nature of the spa: a destination dedicated to pampering its clientele. The décor projects a sense of purpose and confidence in keeping with the quality and level of services available.



Water is the one element that we cannot live without. Our bodies are 85% water, and many of our daily activities include water.

THEN...

In the ancient Chinese art of feng shui, the energy of water can provide many things. Water features in a home symbolize wealth and career, and provide abundant amounts of "chi" energy flowing through your life. According to the Chinese, money is just one of the ways wealth and prosperity come into your life. Riches come in myriad forms: from loving friends and family to a moment in the warm sunshine to a delicious meal beautifully served.

Be grateful, because gratitude keeps prosperity coming.

...AND NOW

Simple water wall sculptures, fish tanks and "sound machines" all transform stress or lethargy into a more harmonious, energized state. Ponds, pools and fountains, as well as home spas, jacuzzis, saunas, and state-of-the-art water features in new bathrooms—all are part of the movement to incorporate water into our living spaces and home environments. •

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