



Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce online edition

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October 2, 1996

## A RETREAT WITHIN A RETREAT

### AIA Project of the Month

**BY CLAIR ENLOW**

Journal A/E editor

**Project:**

The  
**Salish**  
**Spa, The**  
**Salish**  
Lodge,



Photos by Robert Pisano

Snoqualmie

**Owner:** Puget Western, Inc.

**Architect:** Mithun Partners, Inc., Ralph Christenson, project designer; Don Doman, project manager; Gerry Chichanski, principal-in-charge; Patte Bennett, interior designer

**Project type:** Addition/remodel

**Project size:** 4,800 square feet

**Project cost:** \$1.1 million

**Completion date:** March, 1996

**Spa consultant:** Health Fitness Dynamics

**Mechanical engineer:** Air Systems Engineers

**Electrical engineer:** Cochran Electric Company

**Japanese joinery:** Takumi Company

**Light shades:** Donna Spear

**General contractor:** Charter Construction, Inc.

*Jury Comments: "Nice references to local and Pacific Rim methods and*

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*materials without being too literal about it. Very warm and well-suited to the **spa's** function and mood . . . You have to wonder how many more buildings can make this kind of (generous) use of wood . . .*

*"Beautiful materials with true craftsmanship."*

*"Appropriate blending of Pacific Rim influences."*

**Salish** Lodge, which overlooks Snoqualmie Falls less than an hour's drive from Seattle, commands a growing share of the local leisure retreat and



**Beautifully detailed screen doors define the interior architecture of Spa Services.**

upscale business hospitality market. As these two niches continue to converge, hotels and resorts continue to set new standards for luxury -- and make more luxuries standard. The **Salish** Lodge is no exception, and it has now slipped a new refuge into the heart of its guest house.

With the design assistance of Mithun Partners, the new **Salish Spa** has become a retreat within the retreat, a place for fine-tuning body and soul.

Designer Ralph Christenson, whose formative professional experience includes work with architects Kazuyuki

Murata and George Suyama, counts Asian influence highly in his repertoire.

The **Salish Spa** combines spacial excitement with rigorous simplicity and detailing that is almost obsessive. The project has achieved the desired ambience: expansive quietude, soothing sensations and whispered "quality" that is almost audible. The architect, owner and **spa** consultant all helped to assure that sight, touch, sound and smell all play a part in the visitor's experience according to Pat Plumb, project manager for Puget Western, Inc.

From a main guest room corridor, inset panels announce opposite entrances to the different zones of the addition. One leads to a series of standard amenities, including soaking pools, exercise room and sauna. The other leads to "**spa** services," a series of special rooms fitted out for pay-as-you-go therapeutic and cosmetic services from massage to manicure.

The subtle scent of eucalyptus immediately envelops the visitor in the **spa** services wing. The interior architecture interprets



**A skylit corridor leads to massage rooms in Spa Services.**



rooms and corridor.

The **spa** addition to the lodge does not announce itself to passers-by. Views from outside show a seamless integration of new and old in the **spa** addition.

However, the **spa** is not being overlooked, according to Loy Helmlly, vice president and general manager of the **Salish** Lodge. Bookings of hotel rooms based on **spa** services and amenities have been steadily mounting all year long.

### October jury

*The American Institute of Architects/Daily Journal of Commerce (AIA/DJC) Project of the Month for October, **Salish Spa**, was selected by Anne Lindsay of Washington State Engineering and Architecture Services, architect Jeff Graves, landscape architect Mark Brumbaugh and architect Filip Christophides, who generously donated their time to the program.*

*Through the AIA/DJC Project of the Month, which appears in the Journal the first Wednesday of each month, the AIA and the Daily Journal of Commerce seek to bring attention to local buildings that serve users especially well and bring lasting value to owners. Submittals representing all project types -- with the exception of single-family residential -- are welcome.*

*For more information about entering a project in the program, call the AIA Seattle office, 448-4938, or AIA/DJC committee chair Norm Strong at Miller/Hull, 682-6837.*



**The large soaking pool at the Salish Spa brings falling water, stone and fine woodwork together for a relaxing experience.**

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