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# spaces

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Photograph by William Green for Design Tile Inc.



## Serenity Now

Letitia Marks, president and owner of Design Tile Inc. in Tysons Corner, sees the spa trend as well, in the design choices people are making. “We have a line here called Beach Glass that’s very popular. It’s that soft shade of aqua, it’s soothing. I think the thrust is to make you feel calm, serene and soothed.”

The serenity Americans seek comes at a price — we spent \$15 billion at spas last year, estimates SpaFinder, a service for spa-goers.

That’s good news for Middleburg’s Sheila Johnson, CEO of Salamander Hospitality LLC, who plans to open the Salamander Inn & Spa just outside of town. She recently decided to remodel her own 100-year-old farmhouse after “it finally fell apart after some Band-Aid repairs,” she says. Her plans — with help from Pheasant, who is designing both the remodeling of her home and the new resort — call for a bath with a “spa” touch.

“I’m going for more of the European feel, a romantic, sensuous style,” Johnson says.

Pheasant has designed “his-and-hers” spa-inspired owners’ baths and dressing rooms for Johnson and husband-to-be William T. Newman, the chief justice of the Arlington County Circuit Court.

Johnson’s bath and dressing room will include a luxurious whirlpool tub and walk-in shower, and an area for a chaise and telephone. The heated marble mosaic floor, custom-designed by Pheasant and manufactured by Waterworks, “goes back in history to the ultimate spa surface,” he says. The colors, natural limestone and soft blues, are “very calm.”

Newman’s dressing space and bathroom, adjacent to Johnson’s, “will be very much like a spa — deep mahogany woods, with a dark mosaic floor ... an English gentleman’s sort of idea,” Pheasant says.

Lighting “will offer various moods — dim for romantic,” he says. The bath will also include silk and cotton upholstered walls, “fabrics that make you feel good,” and millwork cabinetry.

When completed in 2007, Johnson will be able to enjoy her all-Waterworks room from the oversized tub, with a view of the Blue Ridge Mountains. And she’ll be able to listen to her favorite classical music CDs (an accomplished violinist, she prefers violin and cello), via “smart-house” technology.