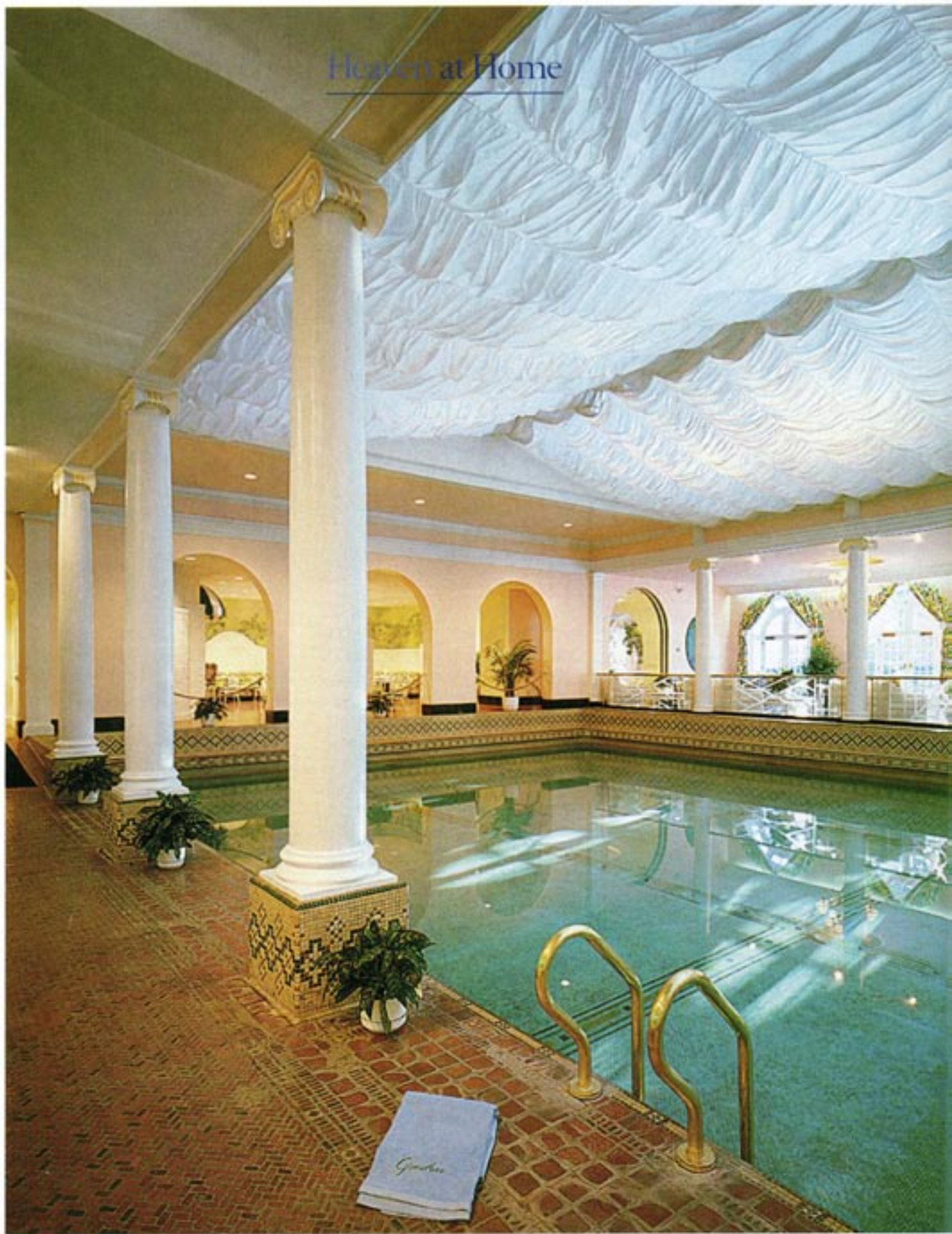


Heaven at Home





TAG GALYEAN Wielding Water

West Virginia designer TAG Galyean has been involved with resort planning for the past 20 years. His most notable projects include the Broadmoor in Colorado, the Greenbrier in West Virginia and Casa Palmero at Pebble Beach.

Q: Your spas are legendary. Design-wise, what makes them unique?

A: I don't like uniformity, so I work exclusively with independent resorts in special places to create their own story. The commonality is the quality, color, cleanliness and informality. At the Greenbrier, the indoor pool feels like you're swimming through a ballroom. At the Broadmoor, you rest in a European parlor overlooking the Rocky Mountains. At Casa Palmero, you're showering in a marine life fantasy. The results are memorable.

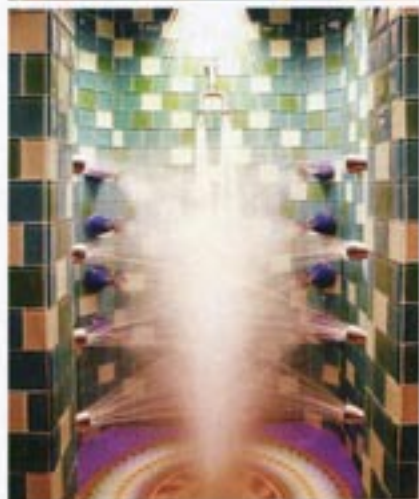
Q: What are the important details of the experience?

A: If done right, the memory of the experience is quite simple, but what makes that up is quite complex. Each sense is addressed individually: what you look at through the windows, what you smell in the shower, what you're offered to drink, the temperature of the robe you're handed, the music you hear... it's all intentional and manipulated to make you feel comfortable. They are the types of things you forget about and take for granted at home.

Q: How can the atmosphere and design of a spa be applied to the home?

A: It's about having your desires met. For a home spa, when you walk through the door, it should just be about yourself—no phone, no computer, no kids. If you can have a separate room for a masseuse to come and set up a massage table, great. Give yourself a hydrothermal treatment, take some time to relax in front of the fireplace, get a massage, rest some more by

the fire, and do it all uninterrupted. It feels like a vacation. It's different from a bathroom, where you're brushing your



teeth and are late for work. It's a totally different kind of energy. What you have at home should be a change from your ordinary, demanding responsibilities. At the spas I have done, people respond to the showers. They have 19 different heads and jets that are coordinated to different programs to provide different kinds of therapies.

Q: You do a lot with water. Why is it so important?

A: "Spa" comes from the Latin term *saunus per aquam*—which means "health through water." It's essential to life and well-being, and ties us to all other living things. Water is not just about our showers. You can jump in the ocean or river, which is all very healthy and refreshing. The swimming pools that I've done at resorts are successful because they consider how liquid forms reflect the landscape. The time you spend in them is relatively short, but the whole environment is a destination to look at over a long period of time. At home, the color of the pool can do a lot. It's nice to have a transition of medium blue on the bottom that fades up to a lighter shade toward the shallow end, with some cobalt blue tiles around the surface. It should also have an indirect light source for nighttime. It should be illuminated, but not directly in your eyes. If you have a view, let water enter the pool in one direction so that it creates a ripple effect toward the view. The right use of water can change the whole experience of being at home. □

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Left: The design of the indoor pool at the Greenbrier in West Virginia was inspired by Dorothy Draper. This page, from top: A staircase spirals down to a fountain at Miami's Fairmont Turnberry Isle resort; the serenity shower at the Broadmoor; the men's lounge at the Broadmoor spa.