

SPA

By Allison Arieff and
Bryan Burkbart
Taschen, \$39.99

As editor in chief of *Dwell* magazine, Arieff knows what's hip, happening and up-to-the minute and what's equally appealing to those who can afford a Mies van der Rohe Barcelona chair and to those who have only a Vitra miniature reproduction of the Bauhaus classic. Regardless of whether your taste leans more toward ultra-modern minimalist or chintz, the ultimate in

luxury and pampering can be summed up in one word: spa. This book takes you closer to nirvana with a tour of the world's best spas, from Amman, Jordan, to Amelia Island, Fla., and Milan, Italy, to Maui, Hawaii. A brief description accompanies each resort or retreat — 83 in all — along with a backdrop of the locale and the spa's signature treatment.

Just reading about treatments such as chardonnay cocoon body wraps and body scrubs with honey glaze can send you off into a gentle night's sleep. More and more, however, homeowners and designers want to bring the spa experience home. No longer content to visit a spa every now and then, people want to im-



part the look and feel of one at home. What better way, then, than to learn from the experts who create these sanctuaries, where every square inch is devoted to relaxation and rejuvenation?

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Since the spa experience nearly always has a connection to water, bathrooms in the home are taking on the role, incorporating soothing colors, natural materials and warm lighting. The jetted tub, which used to be all that was required to turn a bathroom into a home spa, has given way to Japanese soaking tubs, large picture windows (to incorporate nature) mood lighting and a space free of decorative distractions or noise. While the book shows a wide variety of interiors, exteriors and landscapes, there is a common thread: simplicity, serenity and the incorporation of local color and crafts. For those lucky enough to be planning an idyllic escape, Web sites, phone numbers and pricing are given for each spa.

— JANE DUPUY