

The Beauty Parlance

Review by David Bloom

A beauty salon with attitude; part health spa, part hairdresser, part tea shop, Hapa Spa is a funky new addition to the Bangkok wellbeing scene.

Hapa (the name a slang term for Hawaiian/Asian mixed ethnicities found in Hawaii) has recently opened in Bangkok. Located in city's heart (walking distance from 5-star Bumrungrad Hospital; perfect for a 'spa down' after an unpleasant medical procedure!), Hapa is a full-service beauty parlour for both health and beauty-conscious types.

An ultra-contemporary industrial fusion décor runs inside and out, and the architect has cunningly converted an old garage into a very chic space; cylindrical corridors look almost oil drum-like from the outside.


Inside, find shades of purple, white, brown, and grey, with possible inspiration coming from Japanese culture. Entering a gigantic glass porthole, one is faced with innovative display cases containing herbal teas. Enjoy said tea pre-spa (or salon treatment; the latter sits adjacent to the reception). There are also two high-speed internet-enabled computers for surfing while you wait.

Treatment rooms are all different and cutting-edge along minimalistic lines, featuring Thai modern art. A single frosted glass screen forms the only separation from the toilet, and an over-sized Jacuzzi is used with some treatments.



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Drawing heavily on the Shiseido product range, there are a wide selection of natural therapy and treatments available at Hapa. The Aromatherapy Massage is the signature treatment, combining Oriental Shiatsu with Swedish techniques. Quirky essential oils can be selected, like 'Forget-Me-Not' aroma, which is composed of Lavender, Geranium, Peppermint, Lemon, Cinnamon, Orange and Eucalyptus.

Infra-red sauna treatments can also be attempted. This is a revolutionary scientific breakthrough based on state-of-the-art technology originally developed by NASA, to provide all the healthy benefits of infrared energy, but without the room heating up to uncomfortable temperature - in fact, only your body heats up. 



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