

DAILY NEWS



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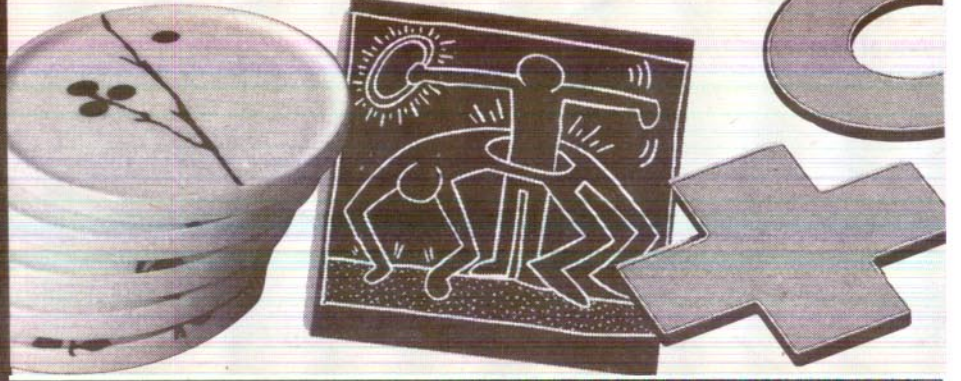
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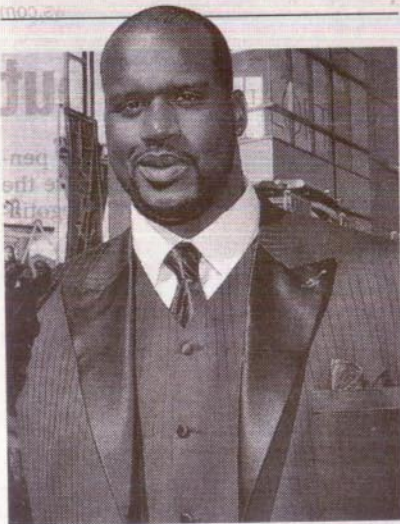
Friday, July 20, 2007

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Coasting right along



* Discovering
North Corona's
working forces

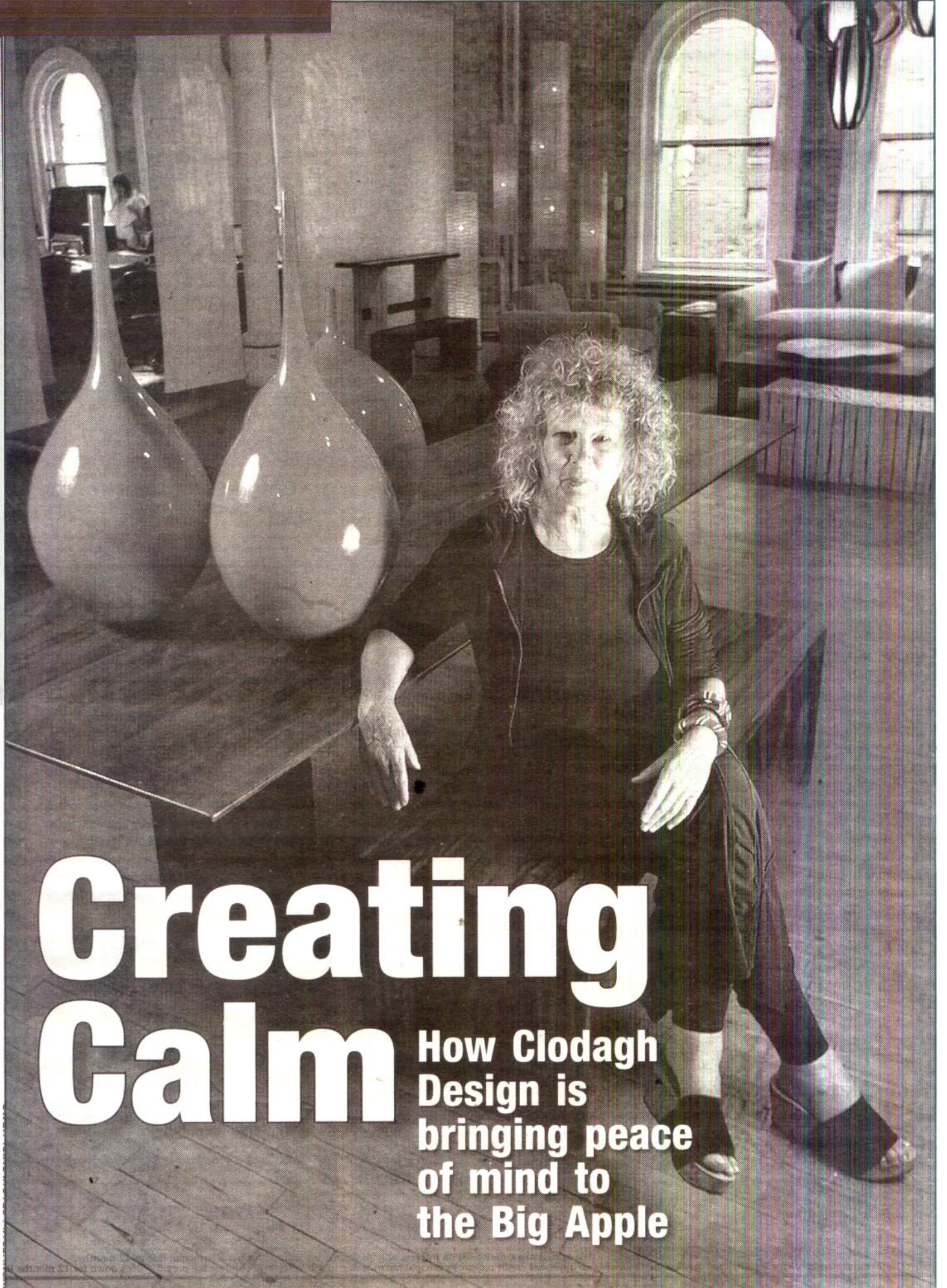


* **The Closer:**
Shaq's new big
challenge takes
NBA superstar
to White Plains

* **Tyra Banks**
goes undercover

FEATURED INSIDE

- **LTS Builders** puts up world-class homes to match the stunning **Pocono Mountain** lifestyle.
- **On Top of the World Communities** gives adults "55 or better" vacation-style living in **Florida**.
- **Island Shores** provides senior residences with luxury and elegance.



Creating Calm

How **Clodagh Design** is bringing peace of mind to the Big Apple

By Jason Sheftell

BATHING BEAUTY

With her clean and modern designs, Clodagh is a calming force in the world's top spas, hotels and homes

When you have one name — like Cher, Madonna or Bono — you better be good or you'll be laughed out of town. Especially New York.

After 24 years, Manhattan-based interior designer Clodagh is still here. The former fashion designer has taken her one-name minimalist approach right into the Interior Design Hall of Fame. She has become one of the world's foremost designers of spas and bathrooms by bringing relaxation in a cleansing setting to new heights.

"Every step or every glance should land a person somewhere peaceful," says Irish-born Clodagh of her design philosophy. "I started designing with the idea of providing a life-enhancing human experience. Even from the bath, everywhere you look should be appealing."

If you've sat in a spa chair, then you're probably familiar with Clodagh's work. She designed the Oakworks spa bed, one of the most popular massage tables ever invented.

In addition to spas, current projects of Clodagh Design include the complete interiors of the W Hotel in Fort Lauderdale and NYC's Caledonia, the 400-plus unit residential building that hovers over the Highline at 17th St. and 10th Ave. She's diverse too, tackling a 500-foot studio recently highlighted in Metropolitan Home and the Landmarc restaurant at the Time Warner Center.

"If we're asked to do a showroom, our job is to define the brand," she says. "If we're asked to do a disco, we do a place to dance."

Her sentences are as minimalist as her de-

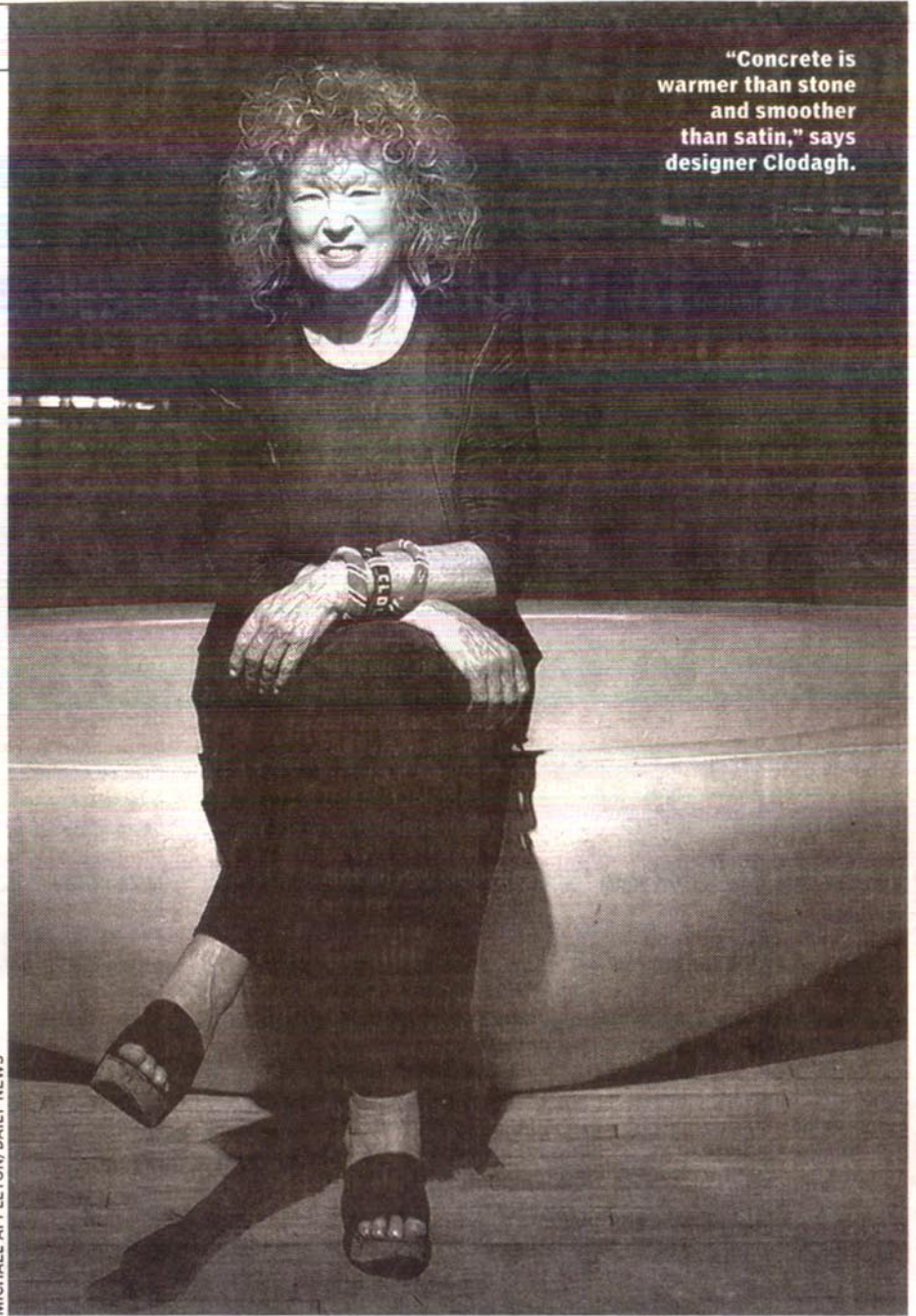


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sign. Clodagh helmed the interiors for the spa at Arizona's Miraval Resort where Oprah did her "Live Your Best Spa Week."

For spas, bathrooms and any other living environment, Clodagh brings her philosophy of "Total Design," which is also the name of her book. Her four "Cs" narrow down her idea on how all of us should approach home design. "Contemplate, Cleanse, Clarify and Create" can rectify any space by allowing people to first reflect on how they want to live and ultimately design the space for themselves.

"We capture the spirit of a person and a room," she says seriously. "As far as I'm concerned, there is no such thing as an inanimate object. Everything communicates with you in some way."



"Concrete is warmer than stone and smoother than satin," says designer Clodagh.

If you think this is baloney, stop the thought. Clodagh doesn't take crap, and hasn't a shred of design training. Her personal philosophy has become her business.

After running a successful fashion career begun at the age of 17, she hung a shingle on her house in Spain that read, "Architectural Interiors." The next day, someone rang her doorbell asking if she would design an English pub for him on the coast of Spain.

"I remember thinking, 'How am I ever going to do this?'" she says, smiling. "I had the courage of total ignorance."

Sitting in her 5,000-square-foot design studio on lower Broadway, surrounded by products she designed and admires, Clodagh talks seamlessly

about style, textiles, materials — and cabbage.

"You ever take home a cabbage?" she asks. "It comes in this small bundle. When you start to cut, though, it grows and grows."

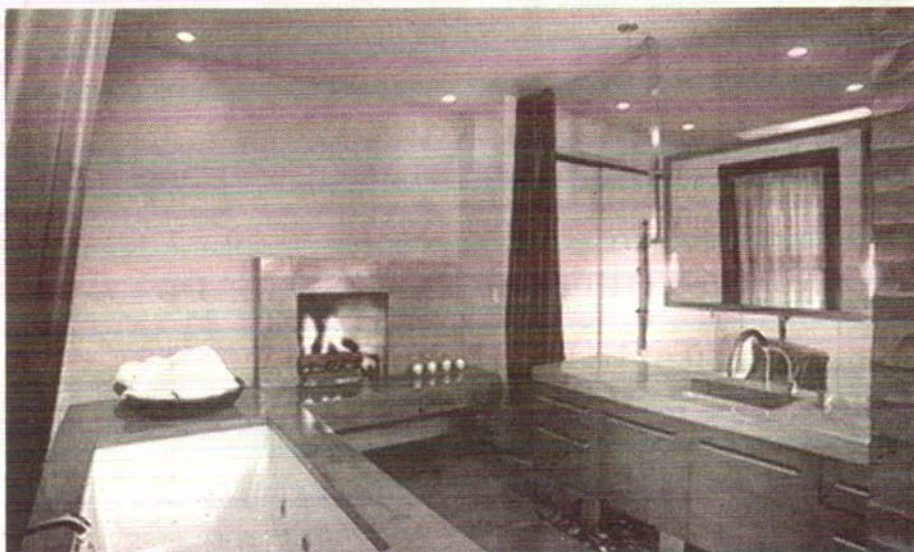
The same goes for the bathroom. They are not what they appear to be. In Clodagh's world, very little is. "The bathroom is much more of a public and social place than anyone gives it credit for," she says, still stern as if I don't believe her. "A bad bathroom experience in the morning will screw up your day. The opposite is also true."

Clodagh uses single orchids and rounded stones in bathrooms to allow nature to have a positive effect on the space and people who use it. Naturalists termed it "biophilia." Concrete is one of her favorite materials to use in the bath.

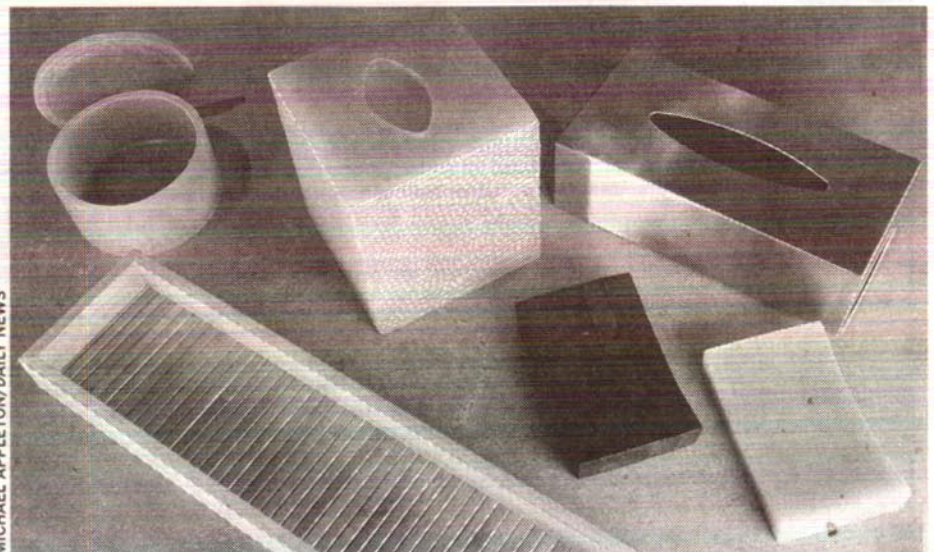
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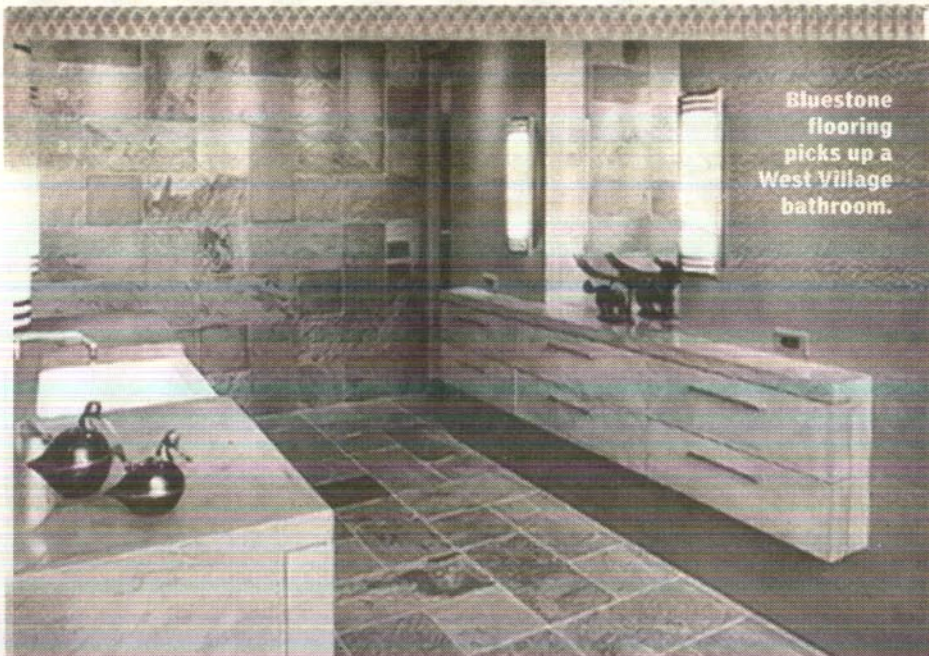


A bathroom with a fireplace in a Harlem residence. Photos by Daniel Aubry

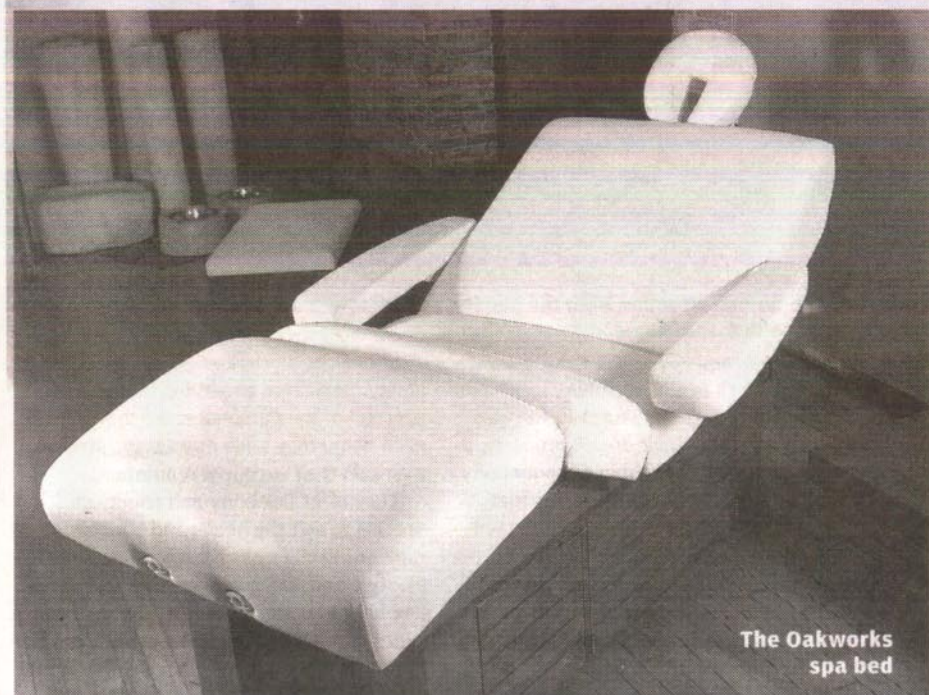


Tissue dispensers, soap dishes and toilet paper holders, all by Clodagh.

MICHAEL APPLETON/DAILY NEWS



Bluestone flooring picks up a West Village bathroom.



The Oakworks spa bed

MICHAEL APPLETON/DAILY NEWS

Her collection includes cast-concrete Zen tubs and conical standing sinks that resemble statues of bongo drums. They appear to have sprung from the earth.

“Concrete is warmer than stone and smoother than satin,” she says. “I call it silent design, or design that doesn’t jump up and down and grab you.”

In the W Hotel and Residences Fort Lauderdale, a project Clodagh calls “total bling,” a floor-to-ceiling glass shower wall looks toward the bedroom and outdoor areas. For Lucite International, Clodagh invented a not-yet-available to the public prototype “hammock” tub that Lenny Kravitz would eat up. For the Caledonia, her elongated “limousine sink” brings the luxury spa mentality into the home.

Clodagh translates design into generosity. She’s involved in building schools for the Sereolipi tribe in Kenya and distributing a line of tableware manufactured in the hills of Colombia.

Her showroom is as much public space as work environment. It’s open to design professionals and the public from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursdays for product displays and cocktails. Her office holds a monthly lecture series called “Inner Circle,” also open to the public, on New Age topics such as feng shui, Reiki and color therapy.

“In Kenya, if they have a leaf and five people, they’ll cut the leaf into five slices without even thinking about themselves,” she says. “You can’t help but learn from that. I’d design a prison if they let me. I really think I could help.”



Clodagh believes the bathroom should be a social place, hence the open shower (r.).