



Growth in bespoke units as clubs add value

The demand for bespoke spa installations has increased as leisure operators endeavour to create more sumptuous and unique interiors.

More pressure in steam market

VIKING SAUNAS is now offering a ten-year guarantee on its patented design of steamroom panels. Director Pam Senior told *B&L*: "All panels are constructed by hand from superior glass re-enforced polyester, with a pre-pigmented polished chemical finish. The total construction is based on this same polyester resin system, ensuring solid inseparable fabrication with no de-lamination. In the unlikely event of something untoward happening, our patented design means one or more sections can be replaced without disturbing the surrounding area."



NORDIC reports a large upturn in custom designed steam rooms over the past 18 months.

"Contemporary tiled interiors incorporating curved seating (as pictured above) or traditional roman benches are now key design considerations," explains md Gerard O'Driscoll. "Essentially the client can choose the layout, style, finish and colours to create a completely unique facility. The same goes for Sauna products – there is very little that cannot be achieved as leisure operators seek to add value and diversity for its membership."

Member retention

Modern materials used in the construction process allow for an almost unlimited range of customised shapes and seating configurations allowing health suites and wellness centres to achieve that extra special design edge. Paul Matson, head of Nordic's design team told *Building for Leisure*. "Working with customers to create an environment which provides the end user with a facility that is designed and built for relaxation definitely attracts and goes on to retain members."

Bespoke sauna and steam cabins were recently installed by Nordic at the Holmes Place club on Old Broad Street Central London, now under Virgin Active ownership. The sauna incorporates two hidden heaters to enhance safety and an automatic dosing system. Operated by a thermostatically regulated remote control panel, the heater can be set to the desired temperature and left to run without bather interference. This resolves the problems associated with bather misuse and ensures that maintenance and downtime are kept to a minimum. The automatic dosing system allows for a pre-determined quantity of water to be put onto the stoves at the push of a button, providing optimum operating temperatures and product longevity.

Nordic also installed a 'Freestyle' cabin into the basement area of the club with a fully tiled internal layout and coloured fibre optic lighting to enhance the bathing experience. The fibre optics can either be set to cycle through the colours or be fixed on one. Both cabins have been designed with DDA in mind and come with disabled access doors and panic buttons. ►