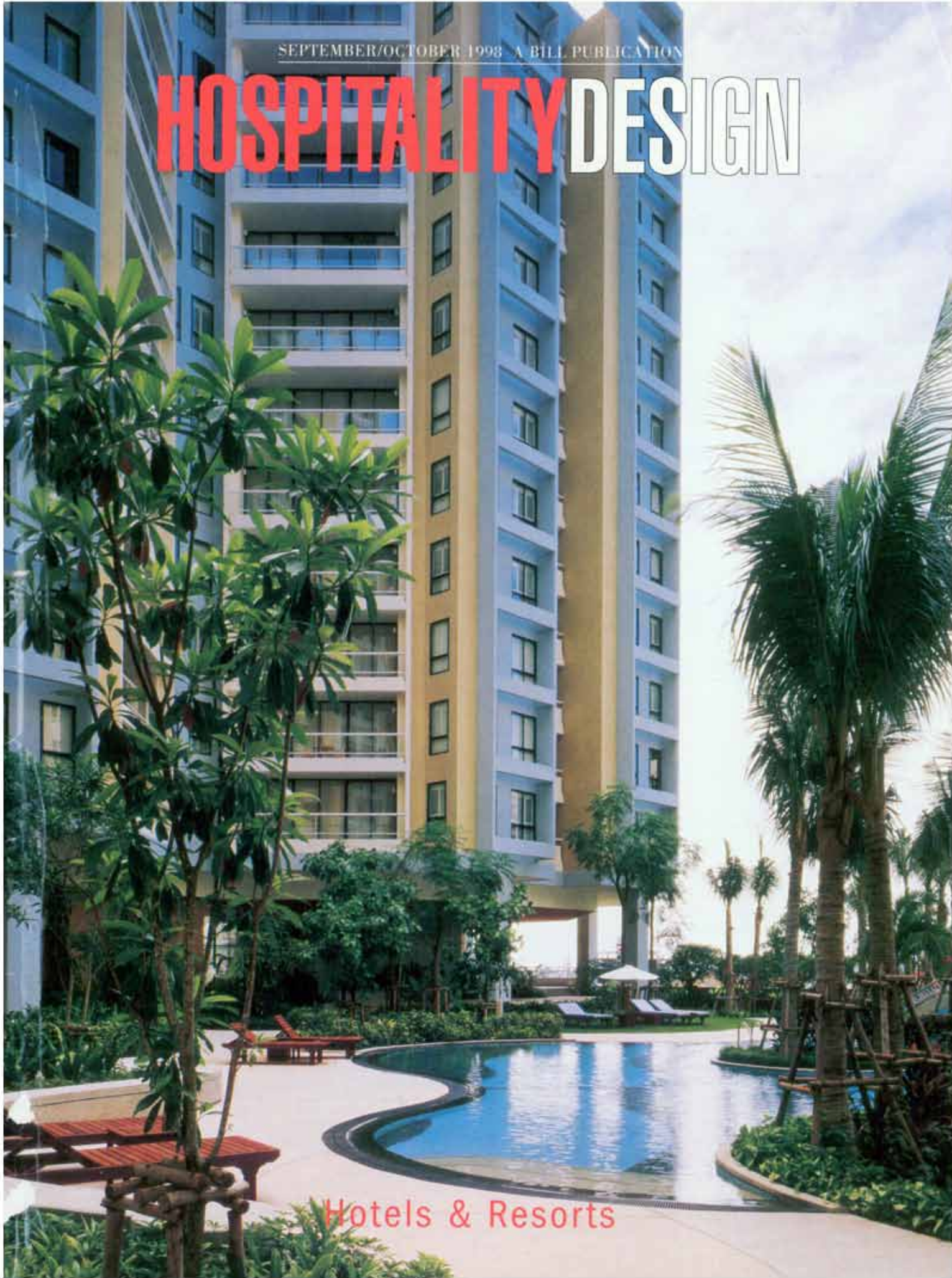


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# HOSPITALITY DESIGN

Hotels & Resorts





# The Library at Canyon Ranch

The lounge at a health resort in the Massachusetts hills is returned its Victorian style



**Above:** One of many mansions built in the “inland Newport,” Bellefontaine is now home to the Canyon Ranch. **Opposite:** The library’s original details included marble walls, a walnut ceiling and bookcases, and arched windows. Lounge chairs: Hickory Chair with Samarcand Selections fabric. Round ottoman: Barclay Furniture with Samarcand Selections fabric and Schumacher fringe and braid. Leather sofa, end tables by far window: Hickory Chair. Table lamps: Remington. Sofa: Hickory Chair with Samarcand Selections fabric. Ottomans by fireplace: Barclay Furniture. Floor lamps: Remington. Wing chairs: Hickory Chair with Kravet fabric. Game table: Minton Spideil. Game chairs: Hickory Chair with Kravet fabric.

**T**he Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts was an “inland Newport” during the Gilded Age, attracting urban industrialists and other moneyed individuals who built grand mansions as summer and weekend retreats. Giraud Foster-inspired by the Petit Trianon at Versailles—built Bellefontaine in 1897 in the town of Lenox and resided there until his death in 1945. The house and its contents were then auctioned and the lavish “cottage” became a school

prior to being almost totally destroyed by fire in 1949. The building was repaired and sat vacant until 1987 when Mel Zuckerman, searching for a northern outpost for his Tucson, Arizona, Canyon Ranch Resort & Spa, purchased the property. Canyon Ranch in the Berkshires now includes a 100,000-square-foot spa, an inn with 120 guestrooms, and the Bellefontaine mansion, the three components connected by glass-enclosed walkways.

Fortunately saved from the 1949 fire were a magnificent library and adjoining rotunda that were refurbished this past spring on a \$55,000 budget. The job was done by Lenox Design Resources, the local firm that has since 1993 been the interior designer of record for this Canyon Ranch, while also doing work at the Tucson location. William Caligari, Jr., the firm’s managing principal, explains that the 2,100-square-foot library was underutilized as a lounge and game room by spa guests even though it was joined to the restaurant by the rotunda. His plan was to give the room more of a period flavor, yet “take the edge off the incredibly heavy and overdone” look often associated with turn-of-the-century Victorian design.

Caligari admits that the room came with almost-irreplaceable features including a 20-foot-high Tudor-style walnut ceiling from











which hangs a trio of crystal chandeliers, 12-foot walnut bookcases, and walls sheathed in salmon-colored marble, the same material used for the intricately carved mantel. A quartet of large, arched windows provide views to a courtyard with a fountain and reflecting pool.

Caligari located in-stock Wilton carpet with a geometric pattern rendered in olive and wine that would establish the room's palette. The designer notes that antique furniture—especially seating—would have been impractical in this now heavily used room: “Guests are constantly rearranging the lounge chairs and ottomans” to accommodate varied needs throughout the day and evening. The new seating pieces, however, have classic, clubby lines and are covered in leathers or chenilles, some of the latter displaying Egyptian-themed motifs. It was common at the time of Bellefontaine's construction for owners to visually boast of their “world travels” to visitors via the display of textiles, art, and artifacts acquired from around the globe, and the library alludes to this trend through its fabrics, tapestry above the mantel, decorative urns, and other *objets*.

Next up for Lenox Design Resources at the Canyon Ranch in the Berkshires is a new 14,000-square-foot health and fitness assessment center and a new 8,000-square-foot Solarium Dining Room, both scheduled for completion by the end of this year. *John P. Radulski*

**Canyon Ranch in the Berkshires**

Lenox, Massachusetts

**Interior Design:**

Lenox Design Resources

**Project team:**

William Caligari, Jr., Albert Veres, ASID

**Photography:**

Sabina Vollmer Von Falken

**Opposite:** The look of “Grand Tour acquisition” was achieved by mixing the Continental look of traditionally patterned Wilton carpet with Egyptian-inspired motifs on the chenille upholstery fabrics and an Etruscan design on the antique-finished table lamp. Lounge chair: Hickory Chair with Samarcand Selections fabric. Ottoman: Barclay Furniture with Samarcand Selections fabric and Schumacher fringe and braid. Sofa, end table: Hickory Chair. Table lamp: Remington.

**Below:** A finely carved marble mantel anchors one side of the room that serves as a lending library, game room, and pre- and post-meal gathering spot for Canyon Ranch guests.

