



Los Angeles-based Carl Ross Design chose a clear glass surround for guest bathroom showers at the Rose Hotel, Pleasanton, CA.

## All the Comforts of Home

*Hotel bathrooms with a residential feel are no longer confined to the luxury tier*

**By Grace Wagner**

**B**athrooms dripping with such luxurious, residential-inspired touches as granite countertops, multi-jetted showers and soft sconce lighting were once a treat in only the finest hotels. Five-star guests were spoiled with these features at home, so naturally they expected them in their \$500-a-night suite at the Four Seasons. Today, thanks to the trickle-down phenomenon in hotel amenities, residential-style bathrooms are popping up in Radissons, Hiltons and Marriotts across the country.

"Even some of the midscale and limited-service chains are going this way," says Becca Chester, vice president, hospitality division, for Santa Barbara-based SFA Design. "We're seeing more and more PIPs (property improvement plans) with specs for sconce

lighting and framed mirrors."

The mass marketing of high-style products at retail outlets such as Target and Pottery Barn has also played a key role in shaping the residential trend in hotels. "The average person didn't use to know or care about these things. Well, now they do," says Rockville, MD-based architect Jonathan Nehmer.

In his practice, Nehmer notices more emphasis on better-quality lighting in bathrooms. "That real utilitarian fluorescent strip above the mirror? It's gone the way of the Edsel," he says. "I can't think of one project we're doing that doesn't have a decoratively framed mirror flanked by sconces. People want nice-looking lighting that will still provide quality light for tasks like shaving and applying makeup."