



“Resilient design allows spaces of all kinds to be adaptable in even the most unforeseen circumstances”

Josephine Leung, group director,
design & development GOCO Hospitality

C OVID-19 has already forced a real shift in what we find important in spa design as a whole. As guests become acutely aware of health, safety and cleanliness, the spa must adapt to fulfil these needs.

Resilient design, a concept that will one day be as common as universal design is today, allows spaces of all kinds to be adaptable in even the most unforeseen circumstances.

In the wake of the pandemic, I see spas and wellness destinations utilising design and technology in new and innovative ways to create guest journeys that are focused more on health and immunity enhancement, and performed in guest-centric spa treatment suites, where therapists and treatments come to them.

Through wearable tech, digital integrations with smart building management systems will be used to enhance the wellness experience, adjusting lighting, temperature, music and aromas to synchronise with the physical state of the guest.

When it comes to cleanliness through design, spas will need to walk a thin line between necessary changes and overcompensation. Interior fittings and furniture coverings will need to be easy enough to clean, or even self-cleaning. In the near future, in-room UV light fixtures that sterilise entire spa suites and touchless processes, from opening doors to checking-in, will become standard.

At GOCO Hospitality, we're already working on several projects that incorporate resilient, sustainable design to create unique and adaptable wellness spaces that I believe will be the precursor to a new design movement that we like to call resilient wellness. Whether the future needs more privacy or our pent-up need for intimacy and community flourishes, the spas of the future will need to be designed in a resilient way that allows for both eventualities, individually and simultaneously.

■ *Josephine Leung is group director of design and development at GOCO Hospitality, and works on concept creation, masterplanning, strategy, programming and technical services for GOCO's spa and wellness projects. www.gocohospitality.com*



■ **AMAALA** in Saudi Arabia is sustainably and resiliently designed