

In your space...

By Sibby Macbain

Perhaps more than anyone, the beauty therapist knows that we live in an image-conscious society, where looks matter and being style savvy is a must. You already have all the skills you need to improve your client's appearance, but what about that of your salon?

As well as being practical and comfortable, the salon furniture you choose must be durable and aesthetically pleasing. Alongside your décor, your furniture must lend itself to style and relaxation and in doing so it will allow you to practice your therapy with confidence and deliver professional treatments in a professional environment.

Making an entrance...

Creating a good impression in your salon is paramount if you want to grab – and hold – your client's attention. The reception is where you meet and greet your clients for the first time, so it needs to reflect the standards you wish to portray. Even if your budget is limited, you can still create an atmosphere of relaxation and luxury by investing in a basic reception desk and no-frills waiting furniture, but accessorising with cushions, plants and pictures.

"With the reception area being one of the first points of contact for you and your customer, first impressions count," says Sharron Macleod of the **Salon Equipment Centre (SEC)**.

"Choosing a Reception Desk needs thought on the practical side as well as how it looks," she continues. "When purchasing a reception desk whether straight or curved, always check the salon entrance to ensure it will go through. Check for space allowance for a till and/or computer, or to save space on top of desk. As an alternative have a built in lockable cash drawer. Choose a desk with storage cupboards and shelves to prevent unnecessary clutter."

As well as a place of comfort for waiting clients, the reception area is also an ideal space to display your retail stock. If you have retail cabinets, choose a design that is easy to keep tidy and suits your salon's décor.

The Torino Waiting Couch from **Salons Direct** is stylish and luxurious, and will complement any salon waiting area. It is available as a two seater or single seat, in black or black and cream.

Also from Salons Direct, the Soho Nail Bar/Reception Stool is perfect to add style to your reception or nail bar. This stylish stool features a height adjustable sturdy chrome base with footrest for extra comfort. It has a comfortable ABS moulded plastic seat and is available in 2 models; high back and low back, in black or silver.

The **Carlton Group** is now launching the Wooden Chaise Longue. Made from one piece of beautiful Okume wood, this luxurious Chaise Longue will suit any salon or spa and is the perfect way to wind down. The Chaise Longue is finished with an elegant natural coloured mattress, offering the ultimate in customer comfort.

Available from **REM and Salon Beauty Supplies**, the new 'Halo' reception desk features a 'mood changing' background and has just the right dimensions for most salons (122cm wide x 95cm high x 57cm deep). Halo also features generous storage with fitted doors to the rear. For something a little different, REM also offers the Halo Moods Desk option featuring ever-changing LED lighting producing thousands of pastel colours. Both desks are available in a wide range of colours.

[comfort zone] can now help you to create the right ambience for your salon with some innovative new display items, available only to [comfort zone] stockists. The new furnishings are characterised by modern, clean and practical design, and inspired by the warmth and elegance. They are attractive, effective, and incorporate functional elements with classic style, designed to complement the clean lines and Mediterranean colours of [comfort zone] products. Items to choose from include tables and display systems in various sizes, Perspex boxes mounted on dark wood to display your products, towels and candles. The company's unique mosaic kit system consists of four Perspex blocks, each designed to complement the colours of a specific product range. A soft mood and a calm ambience can be achieved simply by placing a candle behind the block.

The **SEC** offers the Anfora Illuminated desk with laterals in white polished ABS with a glass top. This stylish addition will add class to any waiting area and make a great impression.

Room of one's own...

Your treatment room must be both practical and comfortable, with everything you need in easy reach. Comfort for both you and your clients is paramount, which is why most therapists agree that your treatment couch or table is perhaps the most important purchase you make when starting out.

"Furniture, and couches in particular, are important, as they affect your customers, your therapists and your bottom line," says Angela Barbagelata-Fates, of the **Carlton Group**.

"Aim for a quality, comfortable couch and your investment will be rewarded. Be aware of the types of treatments that will be performed on your couch and, where possible, try a couch before you buy it. If you aren't comfortable on it your customer won't be either."

Sarah Dandy of **Beutelle** agrees: The design of your key equipment, a treatment couch or chair, should provide for client comfort and an effective treatment; it should also afford a safe and comfortable working environment for the therapist.

"The working height of a couch is most important and couches may need to be at varying heights to suit your staff," she continues. "A flexible alternative is the hydraulic or electric couch – these can be quickly and easily adapted to suit individual treatments – correct posture for the seated therapist is vital, and ergonomic seating contributes to the welfare of the practitioner."

House of Famuir's Skinmate Spa range offers a contemporary range of furniture to enhance the well-being image of the spa and beauty salon.

The Spa Couch features a shaped wooden curved base, which houses a spacious storage shelf. The SpaFurn range of shelving offers a choice of sizes and design in trolleys, cupboards and shelving, all presented in a beech finish.

As well as individual couches, manicure and pedicure equipment, seating and storage solutions, House of Famuir offers a selection of salon Starter Kits to cater for the therapist's unique needs. These include Manicure and Pedicure Starter Kits, the mobile Super Kit, the Salon Spa Kit, the Elite Salon Kit and the Supreme Salon Kit.

Body Craft has a selection of couches to suit the varying needs of today's therapist. The Therapist Couch includes an adjustable backrest with multiple lifting positions, and adjustable height legs allowing greater versatility for therapists. The nylon carry bag protects the vinyl during transport, whilst the face hole, plug and high-density

foam provide extra comfort. The Therapist Couch is also available in a larger width. Alternatively, the Therapist Couch Combo Special includes face cradle, armrests, and couch cover. All of Body Craft's couches feature the new innovative cable design system. Body Craft also offers the On Site Massage Chair, the Massage Couch and Facial Couch, as well as stools and trolleys and accessories.

Beutelle Therapy Equipment manufacture all of their equipment to order in their British factory. All equipment can be modified to meet your own particular requirements and their manufacturing expertise allows them to also offer expert advice on product design and manufacture. As a large manufacturer Beutelle are also able to source upholstery to any colour of your choice and their experienced technical staff are always happy to discuss product deviations and modifications. For larger spa and salon orders Beutelle are well experienced in working together with companies to develop specific new products to suit their own specialist order requirements.

Beutelle's most popular buys include the Blenheim Spa Bench, a three-piece couch which is height adjustable and features multi-adjustable twin ratchet back supports and adjustable knee section lifts for optimum comfort. The breather hole comes at no extra cost, and the couch comes in an attractive beechwood finish. Alternatively, the height adjustable Blenheim Wooden Spa Table is available, which is a three-piece couch featuring lifting back and knee sections and an optional breather hole at no extra cost. You can also deck out your salon with Beutelle's stylish matching wooden spa trolleys to finish the look.

Also popular, from the Helmsley range is the Helmsley 3-Section Electric Salon Couch, offering flexibility and ease of use, and the highly versatile Helmsley Electric Salon Couch with Split Leg.

Salonserve's Electric Couch is available at an affordable price with the option of three easy payments, allowing you to spread the cost. The Electric Couch allows you to position your client at the right height and in the most comfortable position for both of you. The couch is available in a choice of colours, including cream, chocolate, black and white, and can be used in four different positions: as a comfortable chair, upright and raised, completely flat, or upright and lowered.

Alternatively, for added luxury the Wooden Spa Couch is handcrafted and incorporates extra storage for towels. It is available in white and cream, and is extra wide for added client comfort. You can accessorise your treatment room with Salonserve's wooden 3-tier trolley in a stylish design and their ergonomically designed chair with backrest.

Salonserve also offers their Deluxe Massage Beauty Couch in a strong and sturdy cable design. The couch comes complete with extra wide, thick, comfortable upholstery, is height adjustable with a backrest, and is available in a range of colours.

For mobile therapists, the Salonserve Portable Couch is great value and is lightweight and easy to handle. It comes complete with a massage hole and adjustable headrest.

Alternatively, the 2212 Electric Height Couch from **Cosmetronic** has two main functions.

The height adjustment is operated by an electric motor, which has a large variation of height allowing the therapist to control the couch to its lowest form, whilst the head function has a manual lock allowing you to fix the back/head rest at different angles.

Alternatively, the 60020 Bentley electric couch comes in Bronze, Silver and Gold models with pre-formed ergonomic upholstery providing comfortable support. The headrest can be extended for taller clients, and armrests can be folded away.

The Bronze model has three-foot pedals for adjusting the treatment couch by hydraulic gas springs. The position of the lower leg section can be adjusted smoothly using a separate handle. The Silver model is electrically height adjustable using a foot, and other functions can be controlled in the same way as the bronze function. The height, back/leg and knee angle adjustable are all electrically operated, and the Silver and Gold versions are also available with seat heating and relax vibration.

Finally, the 2209 three-section couch is fully electric with three separate motors. The head panel moves from flat to upright, the foot panel moves from a chair to flat and the height function and the arms are detachable allowing easier access for the therapist to perform a deeper massage. It is also ideal for a whole range of treatments including manicures/pedicures, facials, etc.

Salons Direct offer a range of professional salon furniture, including the Portable Massage Couch with Wooden Frame, featuring an adjustable backrest and vertical height adjustment, solid wooden frame, cable tension rods and locking legs.

Alternatively, the Hydraulic Beauty Couch has detachable arms for ease of working during treatments and includes a face hole, hydraulic lift and positioning mechanism for complete flexibility and ease of use.

The Luxury Spa Massage Couch has a height adjustable frame, adjustable backrest and detachable headrest to optimise client comfort. It features a solid wooden frame with storage space provided underneath, to serve as a perfect means of storing accessories, which need to be in reach during spa treatments.

The Motorised Beauty Couch features four way positioning and motorised lift with a preset hand control and concealed motor unit. This model also has a breather hole, with a removable head cushion and removable arms, making it ideal for remedial massage.

Finally, the Luxury Ergonomic Massage Chair comes in a high quality silver coated metal frame. The face rest, seat, height and angles are all fully adjustable for client comfort. The massage chair caters for all heights, weights and body sizes and is available in black or white.

New from the **Carlton Group**, the CC400 MB/2 couch is based on the popular CC400 MB/4 but offers two sections. Forming part of Carlton Professional range, this highly practical couch is excellent value for money but doesn't compromise on quality. Its luxurious 4" upholstery padding is comfortable for facials yet firm enough for massage. With electric lift and backrest adjustment, this versatile couch will ensure client comfort whatever the treatment.

There are also two new luxury couches on offer: the CC700/EL and CC700/EB. The CC700/EL is a stylish four-section couch, which is equally suited for facials and body treatments. Featuring two electric motors for smooth and silent adjustments of the couch height and leg rest and gas lift for backrest adjustment, the CC700/EL is

ideal for a wide range of treatments. The option of heated upholstery, removable armrests, two headrests and prone armrest are also available for ultimate client comfort.

The Carlton Group is launching one of their most popular couches, The Ballerina, in black. This stunning couch makes a real statement for any salon or spa. Curvaceous and aesthetically pleasing, The Ballerina features streamlined contours and an upholstered base, which are stylish and elegant.

Moving smoothly and gracefully, The Ballerina offers all the convenience of a fully electric treatment couch. It also includes two headrests, enabling it to be used for light massage. The Ballerina is also available in white, as standard, and in a range of colours on request.

Featuring a three-section mattress, the CC700/EB offers a sturdy construction with a variety of adjustments making it highly versatile for a wide range of treatments. With an electric height adjustment and gas lift assisted back rest adjustment, as well as two adjustable headrests and removable arms, this couch is ideal for any treatment from massage to depilation.

Valtrar manufactures a range of beauty equipment including portable, static, electric and massage couches. You can also choose from a selection of seating ranging from high quality therapy chairs to specially designed Reflexology stools.

If you are looking to create a spa feel in your salon, Valtrar's beechwood range of furniture will help create a luxurious environment for your clients, and includes the two and three section height adjustable Spa Couch, the Posture Chair and Posture Stool.

AMS Beauty Supplies Direct offers a selection of couches to suit your taste and budget. The Classic 8-legged Portable Table comes complete with a paper towel holder, and soft padding with extra-thick flame retardant foam. The couch is extremely hard wearing with a vinyl outer, and easy to clean with an adonised aluminium frame. Assembly takes just seconds to complete making it ideal for mobile therapists.

Alternatively, the Heavy Duty Portable Cable Couch takes approximately 10 to 20 seconds to assemble, featuring a strong metal frame and luxurious padding. It has a multi-position backrest and is wider to provide optimum comfort and support. This model is ideal for more rigorous and heavy duty use.

The Portable Cable Couch also features fast assembly and like the Heavy Duty Model, it is luxuriously padded with flame retardant foam. Again, it has a multi-position backrest, plus foam padded sides for both therapist and client comfort.

Finally, the Hydraulic Salon Chair is a three-section couch, which features full rotation through 360°. It has detachable arms and head-rest pillow, is equipped with flame retardant padding and is height adjustable with a hydraulic foot pump. The adjustable backrest and footrest add to client comfort, whilst the tough, stain resistant vinyl outer makes it easy to keep clean.

Therapy 2000 is pleased to announce the launch of its Malvern range of Spa furniture, which is crafted from solid wood and finished in mahogany and pine. The range currently includes: a two-section couch with adjustable backrest and face hole with pillow and bung; a stylish shelf unit and a matching shelf trolley, with sufficient depth for storage of towels, magazines etc.

These items are added to the comprehensive list of products for manipulative therapies, manicure, pedicure and Spa, that is available on-line from the company's revamped website, www.therapy2000.com.

Sorisa offers a range of salon furniture to suit your needs, including the S-98E three-section massaging bed. This extra sturdy, extra stable bed has separate movement for head and foot modules, and is manufactured using high quality, easy to clean upholstery. The S-98E can be used for any facial or body treatment.

To ensure optimum comfort for the therapist, the T-93 Special Lumbar Support Stool is ergonomically designed and features gas pump height regulation and a rotary seat. The depth and height of the stool are adjustable, and it is made from quality materials and is easy to keep clean.

The M2EC Table has two shelves and a drawer, and is manufactured from sturdy, low maintenance materials. The table includes a drawer for storing accessories, cosmetics, etc. A rear handle makes it easy for you to move the M2EC around the salon, and it is ideal for holding treatment accessories and components. Also perfect for storage, the M6E Tower trolley is on wheels and has six product drawers. It can be used to hold appliances and apparatuses, while its multiple compartments make the M6E ideal for storing treatment accessories and components.

The **SEC's** 3-Section Electric Couch includes a towel rail, hole and plug and delivery. Available in various colours, the couch comes with several optional extras including armrests and lockable wheels. It is also available in an alternative size option and with thicker padding.

REM's new 2007 Collection includes two brand new electric couches. The Excel Standard has electric height adjustment and a two-piece bed, which incorporates an adjustable backrest with an additional face rest for deep body massage. The Excel 3Motor Couch offers electric adjustment to height and to the angle of both backrest and leg rest. The Excel 3Motor Couch is adaptable to almost any beauty treatment and is ideal for the upmarket salon. The Excel 3Motor costs £750 plus vat. Both REM Excel Couches are available in white only.

Also new from REM is the Laguna Dispensary - the ideal unit for many beauty rooms. It features a Stainless Steel basin and mixer tap set in a glass worktop with storage beneath which also includes a towel bin. The Laguna is available in a great range of laminate colours, with an optional Mirror and Storage unit that fits above the worktop.

Salon Beauty Supplies have now introduced their new 'Futura Spa' inspired collections. For example, the stunning Laguna Vanity wooden unit with steel sink, available in a variety of colour options. For optimum luxury, the super comfortable Excel Electric Massage Couch caters for all of your and your client's needs, whilst the ergonomically designed Salon Pro Stool posture seat ensures you are in the correct position when giving treatments.

For a comprehensive equipment package to get you started, the Prestige Pack from **Sterex** comprises the Prestige Magnifying Lamp, Prestige Stool and Prestige Trolley. The low heat all-purpose Magnifying Lamp comes in white and has a high light output enhances clarity and low heat increases comfort. The adjustable spring arm can hold the head in any position.

The Sterex Prestige Stool offers a stylish and practical design for the practitioner. It features an instant height adjusting gas lift. With single level height control and a two-inch thick high quality upholstery, the Stool has a five star base with high-density black plastic finish, and is available in white or black.

Finally, the Prestige Trolley is constructed from sturdy steel in a protective white epoxy finish for easy cleaning. There are three tier shelves and the trolley comes complete with an electric power panel and a magnifier holder side panel. Sterex also offers the Prestige Deluxe package includes the upgraded versions of the above. The Deluxe Magnifying Lamp has an extra large lense, high light output and low heat, whilst the Deluxe Saddle Stool is instantly height adjustable via gas lift, and features single level height control. The Deluxe Trolley is a bespoke steel construction Z-trolley has an additional steel draw unit.

Nailing it...

Whether your nail services are incorporated into your reception area, or you have enough room to dedicate to a nail 'area', presentation is key. Ergonomic design, storage, and additional features such as filters or even built in lamps can really make the difference. When it comes to working in comfort, nail tech's are often booked solid so need to be seated in a position that places minimum strain on their back and shoulders.

Therapy 2000's range of products for the manicure and pedicure areas is steadily growing. After the introduction of single and double U.V. nail driers at competitive prices, comes the ultra-modern and stylish Topaz Manicure Station. The shaped, toughened glass top has a glitter effect on pale blue, with three drawers to one side, and the unit is set on casters for easy manoeuvrability. Electric dust extraction is standard via the tabletop and all other surfaces have a stunning silver finish. The price includes VAT and delivery.

According to the **Natural Nail Company**, the Kayline Hollywood manicure station offers just about everything a nail technician could ask for. The unit which measures 16" x 60" x 30" has two storage cabinets with five removable trays in each. Both cabinets have special 'disappearing' lockable doors which slide easily into the unit so that they are out of the way during the day, but keep everything locked away safely overnight.

Exterior storage compartments are located on either side of the unit for easy access to bottles and sprays etc, while special folding tray supports (again on both sides) will hold any of the trays from the cabinet at table-top height. The tabletop itself has a padded arm rest for client comfort and houses two polish display units as well as an adjustable lamp.

The Hollywood manicure station is available in an ivory marble, black or white finish. Alternatively, for mobile therapists or salons with limited space, the Kayline Portable Table measures 16" x 31" and is made to the same height standard as Kayline's full size models. The table also features a convenient shallow sliding drawer and twin wheel castors for a longer life. The Kayline Portable is available in black or white,

The Lotus Pedicure Station from **Salons Direct** comes complete with a free low height pedicure stool. Features include a white upholstery seat with soft, moulded arms, hydraulic client seat, footrest for client comfort, which is also adjustable in height, reach and angle, and a solid platform area.

The Lotus Mobile Pedicure Unit comes with a free Babyliss Foot Spa and free pedicure stool, containing three storage drawers and an attached height adjustable footrest for client comfort.

The Milan Manicure Table is a beautifully designed stylish manicure station featuring a unique glass top with a white, gloss finish. It provides excellent storage with two deep drawers and a cupboard, features lockable wheels and comes complete with a free armrest.

Alternatively, the Atlas Double Manicure Station is a vented double manicure table featuring one set of four drawers and a cupboard. It is available in a dark, cherry or white wood and comes complete with air filter, lamp, armrest and nail polish rack.

Finally, the Lotus Portable Manicure Table is ergonomically styled for client and technician comfort. This portable manicure table is ideal for mobiles. It is fully collapsible, has a durable construction, lockable castors and there is also a useful utensils storage drawer for implements and accessories.

The Mobile Manicure Stool from **Valtrar** has three drawers with ample storage for all your products, plus a height adjustable tray ideal when working. The top is an upholstered padded seat for extra comfort and comes complete with castors for easy manoeuvrability. This item is available in Black, White, Lilac, Royal Blue and Silver Upholstery with Silver Epoxy Powder Coating framework as standard.

When it comes to the nail bar, extras are a must, according to Sharron Macleod. "The extractor fan to help clear the air of potent smells, arms pad for comfort while working and a lamp for better visibility, these are all important things to consider." The Glass Top Nail Station from the **SEC** is available in Metal Grey with optional extras including air filter and stool. Alternatively, the stylish Glass Top Manicure Station comes in Metal Grey complete with filter.

We all know that effective lighting is, of course, key to creating fantastic nails. All Daylight lamps from the **Daylight Company** are fitted with low heat energy saving lamps, which helps to reduce electricity bills and also ensures that therapists and clients keep their cool in what can easily become a stuffy and hot environment. Daylight offers a range of high quality lighting options to accommodate all types of budget, and has a complete range of dedicated products for the nail and beauty sector.

For example, Daylight™'s Deluxe UV Nail Lamp comes in three cool colours: 'Ice White', 'Perfectly Pink' or 'Silver Satin'. This technologically advanced UV lamp comes in a chic, ultra modern design and can easily co-ordinate with your salon's colour scheme and interior design. To maximise versatility, a compact and removable foot base is neatly included and the lamp comes fitted with a fan facility. Other clever features include a digital electronic timer to ensure you are in control of curing times to the exact 'second' which makes this UV lamp compatible with all gel and nail systems. A UV replacement warning-signal indicates when the UV quality is beginning to deteriorate and a sliding hand tray ensures the unit is hygienic, easy to keep clean and helps to prevent accidental damage to 'just finished' nails.

Alternatively, the Ultra Slim Manicure Lamp features sleek chrome looks, contemporary styling and clever design. Its flexible arm means the lamp can be adjusted for optimum effectiveness and comfort with an above table height ranging

from 15cm minimum to 50cm maximum and a horizontal reach of 38cm. Therefore the nail technician is in control and can decide upon the required intensity of the large spread of even low heat daylight light cast by the lamp's 'T2 Daylight™ Fluorescent Tube'. This high quality light ensures both client and technician see polish colours and finishes in a true light, and nail technicians' eyes are helped to cope with long periods of concentrated intricate work. The lamp comes equipped with a strong table clamp and stem so it can be easily fitted to all makes and designs of nail station worktops.

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