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## Condo-dwellers will 'swoon' over the Hill's newest spa



I can see why owner Ellen Chae named her brand-spanking new spa [Swoon](#). That's practically what I did after having a 90-minute Ultimate Swoon Massage by Chris Williams. There's nothing like having practiced hands hit all the right spots to work away stress and tension.

The stylish spa is situated among the rapidly developing condos on Capitol Hill, toward the east end of the Pike-Pine corridor. Though it's on the small side, the spa's clever design and architectural details create a feeling of spaciousness. An outdoor private patio is perfect for parties or drying painted toenails on nice days. The decor features energetic shades of aqua, white, red, and dark brown wood. Circular patterns show up in fabrics, chairs and bubble lights. There are two treatment rooms, five side-by-side manicure stations and four adjacent pedicure chairs, providing opportunities for chatting and meeting others. It reflects the shift from punky, partying neighborhood to sophisticated in-city living around this part of the Hill.

The emphasis here is on cleanliness, service and convenience. Pedicure stations have free-flowing water and drains rather than whirlpool foot soaks which can trap unpleasant bacteria. The spa has fumeless nail polish and a ventilated charcoal filter system to cut down on odors. As for services, the menu covers all the basics a spa-goer could want -- manicures, pedicures, facials, waxing, tinting and massage. They offer luxurious pedicures for \$55 and facials that run from \$45 for a 30-minute Express Facial to \$125 for a 90-minute Ultimate Swoon Facial. The spa has the space and facilities for private parties whether you're planning a bridal shower or a night out with the guys or girls. Walk-in clients are welcome.

Take a little of the luxury with you – there are several lines of cosmetics and body products including the wonderful botanical Usps line from Australia. My favorites are the Coffee and Sea Kelp Contour Scrub, the Organic Wild Thyme Foot Pumice and the Bamboo Polish Exfoliant. Other lines include Somme Institute skin care, Susan Posnick and Glominerals cosmetics and Zoya nail polish.

I think about living in one of those condos and how nice it would be to just walk downstairs and get a badly needed massage or a last-minute pedicure. It's the ultimate in city living, with pampering services at your fingertips.

— Kathy Schultz  
NWsource shopping columnist