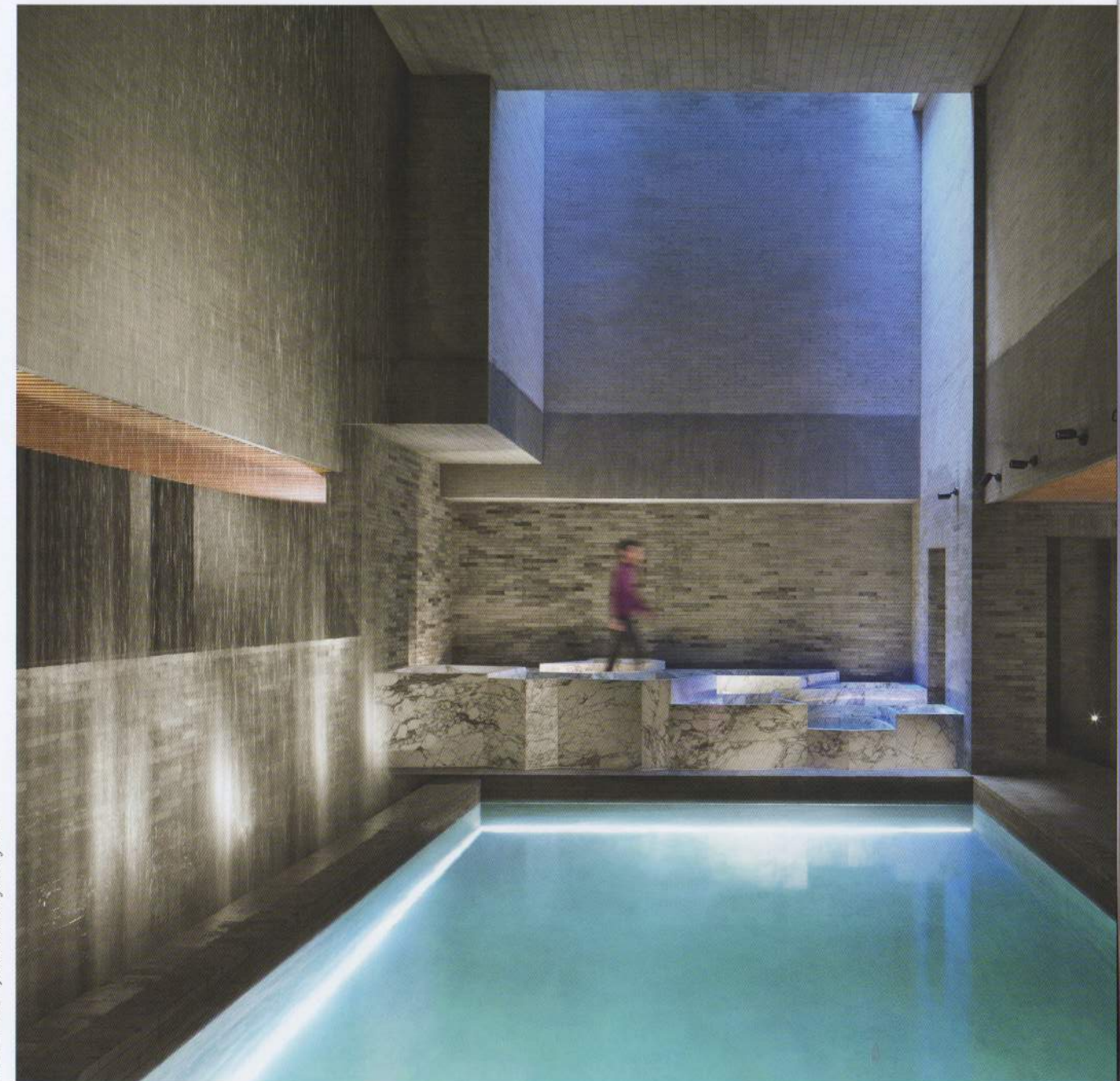


Make It Rain

ASAP

Almost the only thing that's hard to find in Beijing is water, as most of the year it hardly ever rains, let alone pours. Yet bringing water to the desert was exactly the challenge that ASAP, a Buffalo, New York-based architecture practice led by Adam Sokol, decided to embrace when designing the Emperor Qianmen Hotel. The hotel is in Beijing's Qianmen district, where most of the 'historical' sites are recent reconstructions rather than original buildings. Sokol wanted to create a genuine connection to any remaining historical authenticity, so when he learned that the site features a two-storey white marble façade originally built for a public bath he decided to make this the central theme of the interior. Water is present throughout the hotel – from the rooftop pool to the indoor rainfall in the reception that Canadian waterfall artist Dan Euser created. Most significantly, bathing is a key experience in every guest room. Each feature oversized bathrooms and showers, and many contain a large tub directly in the bedroom. — WG

asap.pro



PHOTOS Jonathan Leijonhufvud

Plants encased in glass spheres are suspended from lines dripping with water at Beijing's Emperor Qianmen Hotel.

