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SPHERICAL OBJECTS GIVE WELL-ROUNDED APPEAL TO THE WHISPER Room at Urbana Cityspa & Teabar (escape2urbana.com). Ironically, this wasn't created with intent. "Some of the elements we liked were round, and they ended up tying the room together," says Nancy Goodwin, owner of the Charlotte, North Carolina-based business. For instance, the space is illuminated by oblong, hand-carved Himalayan salt candles and fixtures that cast "floating" circles on the walls.

"Our overall design is modern Zen, but the Whisper Room features traditional Asian touches," Goodwin says, noting that the décor complements the Thai floor massages performed there. New Age and down-tempo music, along with the scent of the 100 teas Urbana serves, add to the "chill" ambiance. The 10-by-10-foot Whisper Room is one of eight themed treatment spaces; the others were inspired by and named for Midnight, Champagne, Chocolate and Mood. —*T. Hale*