

A grand reopening for Richard Scott

By EVE MARX

The best way to approach the newly reopened Richard Scott Salon and Day Spa, closed for five months earlier this year following a devastating fire, is to park in the public lot in the vicinity of Banana Republic in Mount Kisco. To the immediate left of the back entrance of Così, you will see an elevator door. Ring for the lift. Press the button for the second floor. Whoosh! the elevator beams you up, and suddenly you've left behind a couple of acres of asphalt to enter a brave new world.

That world is the Richard Scott Salon and Day Spa (and makeup studio), owned and operated under the direction of Ricky Mason (Scott is his middle name) and Joseph Norris, two master hairdressers with a shared dream. The dream was to open a ne plus ultra salon that would blow away its patrons with luxury and ambience.

The elevator beams you up, and suddenly you've left behind a couple of acres of asphalt to enter a brave new world.

"We're a home run," Mr. Mason said on a recent busy midweek morning as the salon was filling up. "We've got a convenient location. We've got young, fun, hip people working here. We're state-of-the-art. All our stylists undergo regular ongoing training. This fall we sent a bunch of them to California to the Institute of Courage out in Woodland Hills. My wife and I are attending the hair show in Berlin. We must be doing something right, because 500 happy women come here every week."

While other terrific hair salons, nail salons, and day spas abound in



Ricky Mason at work at Richard Scott Salon and Day Spa.

the Bedford/Pound Ridge realm, unless you schlep all the way to Ridgefield, Conn., to visit Adam Broderick, there is no other place around to enjoy such a multitude of services under one roof. At Richard Scott you can have a Swedish massage, a manicure, a pedicure, a European facial, a Brazilian bikini wax, and have your eyebrows shaped. You can be dermabraded, seaweed wrapped, have your hair cut, colored or Japanese straightened. You can be instantly bronzed. And while it's true that the evil parking meters only accept quarters for two hours, the thoughtful staff at Richard Scott, should you ask, will be happy to send someone downstairs to feed the meter.

My personal day of health and beauty at the Richard Scott Salon and Day Spa began with a deep-tissue therapeutic massage given by Michele Trinchillo, who kneaded my neck and shoulders and the middle of my back for a good 50 minutes before moving on to my hamstrings.

While she was working, she told me a lot of information about my body and where I was holding my stress. After 90 minutes, when I finally left the table, still cocooned in thick terrycloth, Ms. Trinchillo led me by the hand to Dana Kanapaska, the resident pedicure expert.

The pedicure at Richard Scott is about as different from a pedicure at your corner nail salon as a fast-food lunch is to a fine-dining experience. Like the neighborhood nail salons, Richard Scott has the requisite vibrating chairs and hot whirlpool foot baths, but any resemblance ends there. At Richard Scott, you can watch music videos on a large flat screen or bury your face in an international fashion magazine. Or you can sit back and close your eyes and let Ms. Kanapaska do her work. Her grooming of your foot (she pays special attention to your cuticles) and foot massage are deluxe, but the real surprise is the way she applies the polish. It lasts and lasts and lasts. My chosen shade of classic red stayed

perfectly un-nicked and shiny for a full four weeks.

After a pitstop to the dressing room (spotless), my next station was Shannon Nitti's chair, Ms. Nitti being not only the salon's brochure model, but the resident hair extension specialist. Ms. Nitti is so sexy and youthful it's hard to believe she's a married mother of three. She also has one of the hippest haircuts in town thanks to Ricky Mason's shears. Although I would love extensions, I settled for a wash and blow out. It was, without a doubt, the best blow out I've ever had, lasting a five full days through horrific heat and humidity and hours under a riding helmet with nary a whiff of frizz.

Feeling totally buffed and glowing, I next put myself under the care of Ellen Mancuso, who, with partner Kathryn Weinberger, has her makeup niche in the salon. Ms. Weinberger worked extensively with Bobbi Brown and Ms. Mancuso worked exclusively with Trish McEvoy (the two met at Bloomingdales 59th Street). Ms. Mancuso specializes in makeup for parties and events. After she's through, all that's left is to dash home and slip on your dress.

Richard Scott makes every effort to make clients feel they're VIPs. Courtesy phones have been added to the nail department. All over the salon are laptop computers, and the entire place has been Wi-Fi'ed. Genuine celebrities — and Richard Scott does have a few — can enjoy utter privacy as there is a private reception area for easy check-in and check-out.

Richard Scott Salon and Day Spa is located at 15-17 South Moger Ave., Mount Kisco. Hours of operation are Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Holiday hours vary.

For additional information, visit www.richardscottsalon.com or call 242-1700.