

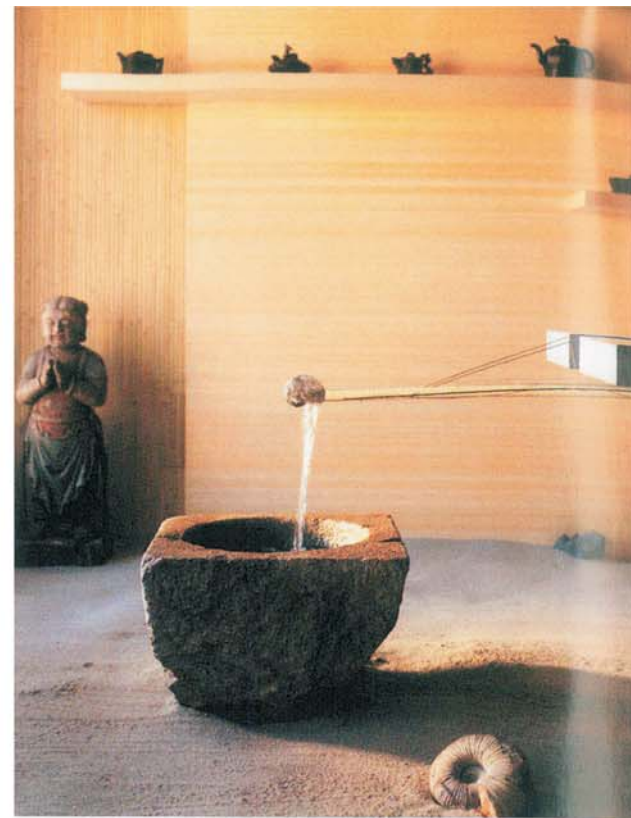
**FU-TUNG CHENG  
CHENG DESIGN**



In ancient China, water symbolized truth, prosperity and the flow of life. It's little wonder, then, that Fu-Tung Cheng's design of a tea room in the East Bay would use water as a point of departure. A master of concrete design and a devoted practitioner of tai chi, Cheng—the founder of Berkeley-based Cheng Design—created Téance Fine Teas as a kind of meditation on the essential element. Rippling water doesn't only pour from teapots: A concealed pump in the serving counter pulses a half-inch wave through a four-inch-wide, 16-foot-long channel every 10 seconds. The water flows through a unique sluice constructed of beeswax and wire, and then around

an ammonite fossil (Cheng's design signature) before spilling gently onto an antique Chinese milling stone below. Anchoring the interior is a flared cylindrical tea bar—an unusual shape borrowed from a traditional Chinese teacup. The surface of the bar is jade-colored concrete inset with jadeite, turquoise and broken pieces of porcelain, and serves the dual purpose of a serving counter and an ideal setting for traditional tea ceremonies. —*Leilani Labong*

RIGHT: Water travels along a beeswax sluice before pouring into a stone vessel. BELOW: The tea bar's sloped center acts as a drain board for a tea ceremony.



**CH+D AWARD FOR  
COMMERCIAL  
ARCHITECTURE**



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHENG DESIGN