

Architectural PRODUCTS

Jan-Feb 2016



Form

Inspired Product + Material Choices

Form, the evolution of our regular "Project Deconstruction" feature reflects the inspiration of the designers creating great spaces and structures, such as Morphosis' Gates Hall on the Cornell campus in Ithaca, New York.



Louver System

Configurable shading by Zahner, adds a distinct look beyond its functionality

Curtainwall

YKK curtainwall serves as the anchoring foundation for the perforated shading



When it comes to making a big splash in hospitality, Nunzio DeSantis, executive vice president of HKS Hospitality Group, sees a huge opportunity in simply reconsidering the bathroom, starting with the lavatory. "Take extraordinary time in designing and detailing the guestroom bathroom vanity," he says. "No place is more of a 'me' space in a hotel than this."

Indeed, every inch counts in a private room, adds Sheela Pawar of the Rockwell Group—winner of AXOR's Das Design bathroom design competition. That said, keeping a light, open space is critical. In the case of the firm's winning design for the New York EDITION hotel, it aimed for a subtle, yet luxurious, material palette that would maintain strength and durability. The palette included precast sinks, tubs and shower pans that featured custom-matched finishes that coordinated precisely with the adjacent Italian porcelain tile.

Material innovations for wet environments, in fact, have created a bevy of possibilities that push the envelope of bathroom design, guest comfort and maintainability. According to MTI Baths' director of hospitality, Dori Kallweit, these new materials exhibit the unique ability to nudge bathroom design and water to be further integrated into the general living space. "We have seen, in the bathroom, people wanting to have more tranquil, relaxing environment with a modern look," says Kallweit.

monolithic shower pans and sinks

One particular material MTI sees as fitting well with this trend is precast. Kallweit says precast helps minimize grout joints; in addition, offering single component shower pans, or integrated sinks and countertops, make a lot of sense from an installation and performance perspective. For example, Duravit's Stonetto shower tray offers class-b slip resistance and can be installed flush with the floor.

The use of clean, crisp materials and fixtures is a major advantage, says DeSantis. "Pay special attention to smart detailing," he says.

Some sinks can be their own vanities; a counter-sink program allows a seamless design between sink and countertops, adds Kallweit. For example, MTI Baths' counter-sink program can produce varying thicknesses in a single component that can range from 0.5-in. to 12-in. in thickness, providing an opportunity to create custom installations for a cohesive look even outside the restroom.

Attached to a wall, singular components can appear to float above the floor, resulting in easy cleaning and maintenance and a light, open feel to the space. "Eliminating bulky material creates the illusion of a lighter, airier, more spacious room," says Duravit USA President Tim Schroeder. Thinner ceramic is durable enough for a highly trafficked bathroom; plus, the material enables the slimmer, crisper, edges of a refined design.

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PRODUCT SPECS

Product: Stonetto
Material: DuraSolid Q
Quartz-based composition

Stonetto
www.duravit.us
Circle 424

PAN HANDLING

The Stonetto shower tray is made with DuraSolid Q, which offers a stone look and feel, sleek, class-b slip resistance, and easy cleaning capabilities. Stonetto can be mounted flush to the floor, creating a seamless edge.



Photo: Nikolas Koenig, Rockwell Group and Ian Schrager Co. images

MONUMENTAL

Rockwell Group's winning design for Axor's Das Design Competition features a spacious design that uses a simple, luxurious palette of precast concrete and Italian tiles. The monolithic precast elements for vanity, shower tray and sink are precisely color-matched to the nearby Italian tiles.



PRODUCT SPECS

Product: CounterSink
Material: Ground natural materials, 60% organic

Guildstone
thefurnitureguild.com
Circle 423

CUSTOM CARE

The Furniture Guild offers designers the ability to fully customize shape, thickness and drain of sinks integrated with vanities through its new CounterSink program. GuildStone CounterSinks are hand-crafted in the U.S. of 70% organic materials.



wood old and new

What can't go unnoticed in the changing appearance of modern bathrooms is the abundance of wooden bathroom furniture and finishes. But how does it hold up in a high-traffic wet area? As a general rule, all of the materials in the bathroom should be non-porous, says Kallweit, but "people love to have that element—glass, and metals of the faucet, and other mixed materials—together in the bathroom," she says.

Myriad wood and reclaimed designs are made more resilient by their finishes. Duravit, for example, finishes its wood with a melamine resin, says Schroeder; other companies use a marine-grade teak or natural oak which, if treated properly with a special oil, weathers moisture and patinas gracefully with use. A wood vanity needs a conversion varnish finish—there is one available from Valspar and one from Mohawk—says Kallweit. It's a 12-step process that helps to seal the wood, making it possible to achieve a wood look in more heavily trafficked bathrooms.



WHITE TAIL

Viewed in profile, this delicate sink from Galassia, Italy appears slightly like a deer. Its new Ergo Structure and 7102 washbasin, designed by Antonio Pascale, is made of solid Iroko and is set with a pure white top with an integrated sink.

PRODUCT SPECS

Product: Ergo Structure
Materials: Ceramic, Iroko: large hardwood tree from the west coast of tropical Africa

Galassia

ceramicagalassia.com

Circle 422



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CAPE COD CAPER

The Cape Cod bath collection uses DuraCeram to suit the refined look and feel of Philippe Starck's very particular Cape Cod ceramic design. The material is durable, robust and impact-resistant. Duravit's Cape Cod Collection delivers a homey, comfortable aesthetic with wood furniture and DuraSolid A for its solid-surface tub design.



PRODUCT SPECS

Product: Cape Cod
Material: DuraCeram, Vintage Oak solid wood

Duravit

www.duravit.us

Circle 421