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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2011

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Remodeling innovations looking good

The kitchen and bathroom are favorite targets for remodeling, and every year brings innovative plumbing fixtures that provide greater utility or beauty, or are just plumb fun to dream about. Here are a few new takes on these everyday essentials.

Barely-there shower drain

Talk about minimal: The CeraLine linear shower floor drain from California Faucets has no slots or holes. The water drains along the sides of the panel, and it can even be customized to match the flooring and become nearly invisi-



ble. First introduced in Europe, the CeraLine won a "Best of Year" award for 2010 from Interior Design magazine.

Starting at \$859: see www.calfaucets.com for dealers.

'Pausing' faucet

A simple improvement on the dexterity of a pull-down kitchen faucet, styles from American Standard, Moen and Kohler now have "pause" buttons on the hand spray, which allow users to single-handedly halt the flow of water while redirecting from the sink to a pot on the counter, for example.



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Copper sink

Who needs paint or decorative lighting when you have a sink that seems to glow? The Copper Trough Skirted Sink from Diamond Spas is a centerpiece splurge, made from 90 to 95 percent recycled .080-inch-thick copper. The 22-by-48-inch sink has a contempo-

rary Tuscan look and a subtle sloped divider. \$3,250; www.diamondspas.com.

Contemporary farm sink

In stainless steel, the nofrills design of a farm sink seems made for modern interiors. The new 10-inch-deep London sink from Porcher has a full, finished apron on all sides, so the sink can be installed above-counter.

\$1,000-\$1,450 for 24- to 36-

inch widths at homedepot.com, amazon.com and through local showrooms listed at www.porcher-us.com.

'Age in place' caulkless shower

A lot of thought went into the design of this caulkless shower system. A wide seat with a sleek shape is appropriate for any age or household, but the shower is available with pre-installed grab bars or with a backer kit so that grab bars can be installed later without remodeling. The seat also can be removed or can be placed at either end of the shower.

Accord seated shower from Sterling: \$625.80-\$1,197.45 through Home Depot or Lowe's stores.



Tub turned massage table

At the aspirational end of spa-like bath retreats, BainUltra's Ayoura freestanding bath has three levels of air jets and a three-level foot-

rest – oh, and a massage table designed to rest on top.

\$8,945 for the bath; \$2,199 for optional massage table with full head rest or \$795 for optional lightweight table; through Bona Decorative Hardware in Oakley or Worly Plumbing Supply in Springfield Township.



Amy Howell Hirt