

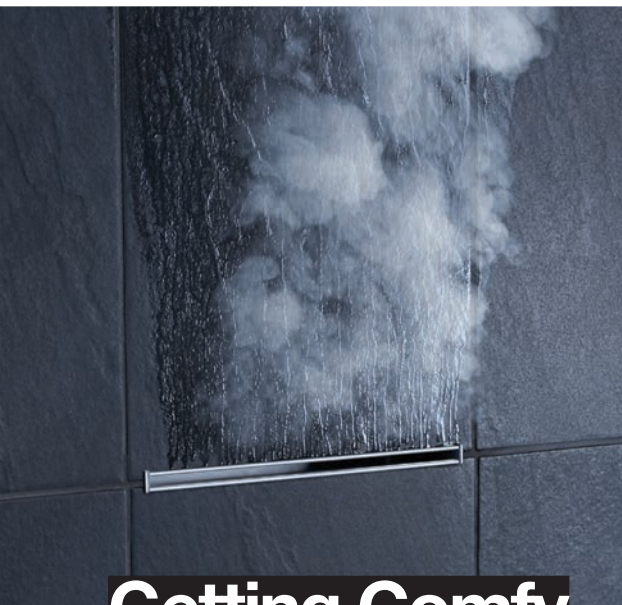
July/August 2016

Kitchen & Bath Business

**Mobile Business Apps Save Time and Money
Atypical Home's K&B Spaces Follow Suit
KBB's Readers' Choice Award Winners**

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

KBB



Getting Comfy with Technology

Smart trends in the bath work to make daily life relaxing and fun

ABOVE LEFT The Linear Steam-Head from **MRSTEAM** is set flush to the wall and contained almost entirely within it. Its thin, horizontal contour creates a reverse waterfall of steam that flows upward, dissipating in a gentle pace in the shower.

ABOVE RIGHT From **MTI BATHS**, the Stream Bath recreates the experience of bathing in a forest stream with a gentle, quiet pump and strategically placed rotating vents to create streams of water.

BOTTOM RIGHT The Charism 5736 tub is a part of the Thermasseur collection from **BAINULTRA**. It offers the full benefits of hydro-thermo massage, and additional amenities include remote controls, chromotherapy and warm air jet technology for a consistent water temperature.

BY ERINN WALDO



THANKS TO INNOVATION, the bathroom is not just for practical use. It's the haven to retreat to at the end of the day and a place to rejuvenate before the day even starts. And with the tech craze at full throttle, the bathroom has become the next frontier in designing a smart home. "Homebuyers are looking for homes with smart innovations," said Alex Birch of BRZ Brands. "Many of these products can be found in bathrooms, which are quickly becoming a focus area for companies specializing in personal comfort, energy consciousness and customization."

This analysis originates from studies like a Smart Home Marketplace Survey released in January by real estate brokerage firm Coldwell Banker. According to the study, 45 percent of all Americans will either own smart home technology or invest in it by the end of the year. The survey also found that 54 percent of homeowners planning to sell their homes plan on purchasing or installing smart home products to help it sell faster. Of that group, 65 percent said they would pay \$1,500 or more.

"As an interior designer, seeking out elements that fit a client's lifestyle is a priority," said designer Lori Carroll of Tucson, Ariz.-based Lori Carroll & Associates. "Technological gadgets are certainly rising in popularity, and a high-tech bathroom is a must-have in any luxury home."

WHAT CONSUMERS WANT

With new technology inspiring high standards, consumers want products that reflect their personalities, their décor and even their values.

"Generally, customers look to three requirements when evaluating bathroom technology: customization, energy efficiency and personal comfort," said Birch. "Products that deliver in those three areas will exceed customers' expectations."

How much a customer values features like water conservation versus cleanliness determines in which products they will invest, and today's technology often eliminates the need to prioritize those values. While the eco-friendly client will prefer a dual-flush toilet to conserve water, the health-conscious client will opt for the self-cleansing toilet. Because of today's product innovations, those clients can get both in one model.

"All of these healthful and high-tech features are enveloped in a design that is the perfect marriage of technology and art, while delivering on the consumer desire for cleanliness," said Katie Stevens, Kohler's toilet product manager, in reference to Kohler's Veil toilet.

Whatever preferences clients may have for their bathrooms, everyone wants more control over their home environment and a more efficient space. Consumers are drawn toward technologies that mimic the everyday conveniences they experience with their phones – like automation, visual cues and motion or touch activation.



Trends

“Homeowners want technology that offers clean, unobtrusive design lines that make their daily lives easier, not more complicated,” said Martha Orellana, vice president of sales and marketing for MrSteam, who added that Air-Tempo, a wireless steam shower control that can be installed on any surface, will debut at KBIS 2017. “Customers are also looking for products that reduce clutter in the bathroom while also improving efficiency and overall ease of use.”

LUXURY VERSUS PRACTICALITY

Arguably the integration of luxury in the bathroom is no recent occurrence, but in the past decade manufacturers have made it more accessible to consumers of all budgets.

“Our customers are most concerned about having a relaxing, spa-like experience in their bathrooms: functionality combined with a clean, sleek look,” said designer Caitlyn Cartledge of Great Falls, Va.-based NF Interiors. “I’d say it errs on the side of luxury, but I wouldn’t say that luxury and practicality are necessarily separate in this context.”

When it comes to the bathroom, practical and healthful features like touchless faucets or self-cleansing toilets are considered luxury features. For the toilet – usually considered the most practical but overlooked aspect of the bathroom – the most luxurious experience is also the most functional one.



TOP LEFT For a safe and gentle nightlight, **DELTA** introduces the Sanborne Toilet Seat with Nightlight, which runs on four AA batteries and works on a self-activated timer. The glow works whether the seat is up or down.

TOP RIGHT The Aqua-Sense showerhead from **GRAFF** boasts a unique square shape that provides a spout for a waterfall flow, creating a natural and relaxing shower experience. With various handle options, shower components and the ability to add lighting, Aqua-Sense can be easily personalized.

LEFT SONOMA FORGE sensor faucet technology, or Sans Hands, has no visible sensors and does not rely on infrared technology. The Wherever Collection, shown here, is available in rustic copper, rustic nickel, satin nickel or oil-rubbed bronze.



BOTTOM LEFT To meet the standards set of a CALGreen-compliant product, StyleTherm from **CALIFORNIA FAUCETS** employs a two-outlet diverter valve with volume control features. This thermostatic valve technology allows users to toggle between single shower applications and engage up to two shower applications individually.



“Technology has impacted nearly every product in the home from thermostats to refrigerators to televisions, and toilets are no exception,” said Stevens. “Our research shows the vast majority of American homeowners want their bathrooms to be more luxurious, and they are thinking about that with every product they put into them. Still many say theirs fall short [with the toilet], even among people who just completed a remodel or update. Part of the issue is they simply aren’t aware of all of the offerings available today on a toilet.”

Toilets today run the gamut in offerings for the practical client, from a touchless flush to a deodorizing toilet seat, as well as automated lids. Lights under the lid make nightly trips safer, and a bidet function enhances cleanliness for those with physical limitations.

“Our U.S. marketplace has a larger aging demographic,” said Bill Strang, president of operations for TOTO, who added that simple details like situating lavatory controls in an easy-to-access place can make all the difference for the elderly. “We need to make sure we can help make the experience easier for everyone.”

Ease of use is also important for consumers like the millennials. It’s the pamper factor of the heated seat or the warm air dryer that will be the draw for these clients. According to the 2015 State of the Smart Home Report from Icontrol Network, 79 percent of millennials are especially drawn to high-tech gadgets in any room. Their values also lie in eco-efficiency and time saving, and the cool, high-tech gadgets are just a fun plus.

SAVING WATER AND ELECTRICITY

The toilet has helped pioneer water conservation in the home with low-flow capabilities, which began with the EPA’s WaterSense program and its requirement that household toilets use no more than 1.6 gallons per flush (gpf). A variety of different methods contribute to this innovation: Pressure-assisted flush toilets use the force of extra air, while even a little horsepower pump can provide the needed power. Either way, the EPA estimates that since the WaterSense program’s inception in 2006, consumers have saved more than 287 billion gallons of water and more than \$4.7 billion in water and energy bills by switching to more efficient toilets.

Trends

“Water conservation is a very important issue to pay attention to, since it is turning into the biggest megatrend for our world,” said Strang. “Water is becoming more and more precious.”

The average American shower uses 17.2 gallons and lasts for 8.2 minutes at an average flow rate of 2.1 gallons per minute, according to Home-WaterWorks, a project of the Alliance for Water Efficiency. Replacing a showerhead with a more efficient model helps, but the biggest issue is duration. Here, the most significant innovations are thermostatic valves that help regulate temperature and reduce waiting time and push-button technology for easy on-off capabilities.

“The underlying thermostatic technology in the shower is paramount, regardless of whether it includes a digital interface or not,” said Jeff Sliverson, president and CEO of California Faucets, explaining that this technology allows for a consistent water temperature. “Thermostatic technology has increasingly replaced pressure-balance technology for all the obvious reasons, including flexibility, true temperature control and enhanced safety.”

In addition to saving water, fixtures that save electricity are always on the rise. A programmable thermostat for a heated floor allows clients to leave the floor unheated when not in use, and vent fans with timer switches allow the homeowner to leave the room knowing the fan will shut off on its own.

“Since the typical bathroom is used only for a couple hours a day, it is important to our customers that they can turn fixtures off when not in use,” said designer Candice Buchanan of Corvallis, Ore.-based Corvallis Custom Kitchens & Baths. “Timer switches and heated towel bars are all popular options.”

THERAPEUTIC BENEFITS

The popularity of products that promote comfort and relaxation has grown in an age of high-speed days and an often-stressed society. For most clients, the security of a clutter-less space makes the most difference, along with products that improve efficiency and ease of use – even concerning health.

“From what we can tell, consumers are looking for technology that would enhance comfort and wellness,” said Michael Kornowa, marketing director at MTI Baths. “They don’t want technology for technology’s sake.”

Hydrotherapy runs the gamut in treating everything from arthritis and pain to soreness and anxiety. Spa-like showers and soaking or massaging freestanding tubs contribute to the popularity of this healthful habit. Inside the shower, all-in-one controls can turn a shower into a steam room, complete with music, lighting and aromatherapy.

“Our customers don’t want to sacrifice superior quality and ease of use for all the extra bells and whistles,” said Abbas Poonawala, sales manager at Isenberg Faucets, who added that the push-button is replacing handles in bathroom fixtures from toilets to faucets to showers. “Bathers want to step into the bath or shower and turn the water on with a simple push of a button and enjoy – without the added stress of having to work for the experience.”

Visual cues for hot and cold water, like lit-up showerheads, work alongside digital controls for personalized and simple usage. Showers can be remotely activated for a set time, and pre-set features – like certain showerhead patterns or chromotherapy preferences – are meant to make the experience as easy as working a smartphone.

PLEASURE IN PERSONALIZATION

Often inspired by the intuitiveness of the smartphone, bathroom technology today goes beyond TVs in mirrors or color-changing faucets. Technology is adaptable; the ability to customize a product has become a requirement.

“The personalization process of ordering the product is extremely important, as customers are looking for the fun element of the shopping experience,” said Birch. “Being able to

choose features, customize details and personalize a product will make the customer feel good about their purchase decision.”

While simply purchasing a product for the bath gives customers a slew of options from colors to materials, more manufacturers are making it possible for clients to customize their experience with the product after purchase.

“With the use of technology, the sky is the limit when it comes to possibilities,” said Martin Siwy, vice president of sales and marketing for ThermaSol, who added that the best part of all this customization is when it is all controlled from a single device.

According to Orellana, this focus on customization will eventually lead to voice-activated controls in the bath, along with the increased use of smartphone technology like wireless connectivity and swipe-touch control screens. Since Sony has just introduced the first waterproof smartphone in 2014, touchscreen technology in the shower is in the works. Siwy also adds that the bathroom of the future could come equipped with shower curtains off of which the news can be read or floors that can change their texture.

“I know some of this sounds like an episode of the Jetson’s, but just remember that the Jetson’s first aired in 1962, and it was set in 2062,” continued Siwy. “We are past the halfway point. It’s coming!” ●



FAR LEFT NIAGARA’s One-Piece Design Stealth Toilet is a 0.8 gpf, single-flush toilet that uses a combination of air and water to deliver a more powerful flush without residual noise.

LEFT The Veil one-piece toilet with integrated bidet functionality from KOHLER provides a suite of precision features tuned to offer optimum hygiene and ultimate individual comfort, from bidet personal cleansing to an LED nightlight to hands-free opening and closing. More intelligent toilets like Veil are expected to debut at KBIS 2017.

BOTTOM ISENBERG’s Hydro-Switch Thermostatic Valve System – to be revealed at KBIS 2017 – uses a simple one-touch system for ease of use and water conservation. The system will include both horizontal and vertical configurations.

Kitchen & Bath Business **2016**
READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

Kitchen & Bath Business (KBB) magazine is proud to present the winners of our fourth-annual *KBB* Readers' Choice Awards. More than 11,000 votes were cast by kitchen and bath professionals, including designers, dealers, architects and builders, to identify the brands and manufacturers they rely on in 25 kitchen and bath categories.

The following are those manufacturers and brands that received the most votes in each of these categories, listed alphabetically, to represent the range of specific types, styles, materials and price levels in which these top-votes brands offer products.

Our readers were asked to make their choices according to specific criteria, including local availability, the support they receive from the supplier/manufacturer, price point for their typical client budget and other category-specific criteria as noted below each category.

We are excited to present these results to you, a testimonial from your peers for brands and manufacturers they turn to most often for their clients. Please join us in congratulating these companies for their excellence in delivering quality products and superior service.

On the following pages and on kbbobline.com, you will find more detailed information on some of the winning companies our readers have voted for and why they are deserving of this recognition.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2016 WINNERS!

—*Natasha Selbi, Publisher*
Kitchen & Bath Business

Cooking Appliances

Bosch
 GE Appliances
 Miele

Viking Range
 Wolf

Criteria: Energy Efficiency, Design/Style, Ease of Cleaning

Design Software

20-20 Technologies
 Autokitchen
 Cadsoft

Chief Architect
 ProKitchen Software

Criteria: Support from Provider, ROI, Ease of Use, Graphic Visualization

Dishwashers

Bosch
 GE Appliances

Miele
 Viking Range

Criteria: Energy Efficiency, Integration into Cabinetry, Design/Style

Hardware, Decorative

Amerock
 Atlas Homewares
 Hardware Resources

Richelieu
 Top Knobs

Criteria: Style/Aesthetics/Ability to Coordinate with Fixtures

Bath Accessories

American Standard
 Atlas Homewares
 Ginger

Kohler Co.
 Moen
 ROHL

Criteria: Style/Design, Ability to Coordinate with Fixtures

Bath Cabinets/Vanities

Cabico Custom
 Cabinetry
 Fairmont
 Hardware Resources

Kohler Co.
 Kraftmaid
 Ronbow

Criteria: Craftsmanship/Design/Style/Aesthetics, Door Styles/Finishes, Ability to Customize/Modify, Construction Quality

Bath Faucets

Brizo
 Delta Faucet Co.
 Hansgrohe

Kohler Co.
 Moen
 ROHL

Criteria: Water Efficiency, Style/Aesthetics

Bath Flooring

Ann Sacks
 Armstrong Flooring

Daltile
 Walker Zanger

Criteria: Style/Aesthetics, Durability

Bath Sinks

American Standard
 Kohler Co.
 Lenova

Native Trails
 TOTO USA

Criteria: Style/Aesthetics, Durability

Bath Ventilation

BROAN
 Delta Products

NuTone
 Panasonic

Criteria: Effectiveness, Noise Level

Bath Wall Coverings

Ann Sacks
 Daltile

Marazzi USA
 Walker Zanger

Criteria: Style/Design/Aesthetics, Durability

WINNERS

Hardware, Functional

Blum
Häfele
Hardware Resources

Rev-A-Shelf
Richelieu

Criteria: Style/Aesthetics

Kitchen Accessories

Blum
Häfele

Rev-A-Shelf
Richelieu

Criteria: Style/Design, Organizational & Functional Ability, Local Availability, Support from Supplier/Manufacturer, Price Point for Typical Client Budget

Kitchen Cabinets

Cabico Custom
Cabinetry
Kraftmaid
MasterBrand
Cabinets Inc.

Merillat
Poggenpohl
Wellborn

Criteria: Craftmanship/Design/Style, Door Styles/Finishes, Ability to Customize/Modify, Construction Quality

Kitchen Countertops

Caesarstone
Cambria
Corian

Neolith by TheSize
Silestone
Wilsonart

Criteria: Stain & Heat Resistance, Style/Aesthetics

Kitchen Faucets

Delta Faucet Co.
Grohe
Kohler Co.

Moen
ROHL

Criteria: Water Efficiency, Style/Aesthetics/Finish

Kitchen Flooring

Armstrong Flooring
Daltile

Neolith by TheSize
Walker Zanger

Criteria: Style/Aesthetics, Durability

Kitchen Sinks

Blanco
Elkay Sinks + Faucets
Franke

Kohler Co.
ROHL

Criteria: Installation Type, Stain Resistance/Durability, Configuration/Style/Aesthetics

Kitchen Ventilation

BEST
BROAN

Vent-A-Hood
Viking Range

Criteria: Effectiveness, Noise Level

Laundry Appliances

Bosch
GE Appliances
LG

Miele
Whirlpool

Criteria: Energy & Water Efficiency, Ability to be Built-In

Lighting

Häfele
Hudson Valley
Lighting

Kichler
Lutron
Progress Lighting

Criteria: Style

Refrigeration Appliances

GE
KitchenAid
LG

Sub-Zero
Viking Range

Criteria: Energy Efficiency, Integration into Cabinetry, Design/Style

Shower Systems

American Standard
Delta Faucet Co.
Grohe

Hansgrohe
Kohler Co.
Moen

Criteria: Water Efficiency, Style/Aesthetics

Toilets

American Standard
Geberit

Kohler Co.
TOTO USA

Criteria: Water Efficiency, Style/Aesthetics

Tubs & Whirlpools

American Standard
BainUltra
Jacuzzi

Kohler Co.
MTI Baths

Criteria: Style/Aesthetics

Kitchen & Bath Business **2016**
READERS' CHOICE AWARDS
WINNER

CATEGORIES:

Bath Accessories, Decorative Hardware

Q: WHAT IS YOUR COMPANY BEST KNOWN FOR?

A: Creativity and impeccable style! Atlas Homewares is all about enhancing home décor with decorative hardware that is fashion forward and always on-trend. Our design team finds new sources of inspiration everywhere – from exotic global travels to the simplicity of nature. We like to think of ourselves as trend setters and work hard to unveil a new collection each season to keep our gallery of design choices fresh and innovative.

Atlas Homewares has introduced many “firsts” in the industry, including our popular **Zanzibar Collection** of leather-wrapped chrome handles, our **Optimism Collection** featuring translucent polycarbonate and our colorful beaded **Bollywood Beauties**. We’re also proud of our extensive line of bath accessories, made to complement many of our best-selling hardware collections. From robe hooks and towel racks to paper holders and switch plates, Atlas has the add-on pieces you need to create a complete ensemble.

Q: HOW WOULD YOU DIFFERENTIATE YOUR COMPANY FROM YOUR COMPETITORS?

A: Cabinet hardware has to look good and work well. The experts at Atlas Homewares incorporate form and function into every design to ensure our products meet expectations on all counts. We focus on four main elements – style, size, finish and budget. We’re proud of our extensive array of style options, from modernist looks like our **UTurn** and **Tab Collections** to more traditional styles such as **Sutton Place** and **Craftsman**. Our hardware runs the gamut in size from petite knobs to oversized appliance pulls. Atlas is also proud of our fabulous selection of finishes, such as elegant **French Gold** and our best-selling **Vintage Brass**, which is particularly popular when paired with a contemporary design such as our **IT Collection**.

Choose from vivid hues or polished metals, rustic finishes like copper and aged bronze or more urban looks like high-gloss white or graphite. Price, of course, is always a consideration. We offer superior quality collections for a great value. The longevity of Atlas products may make it worthwhile to choose a style that you really love and will live with for years to come.

Q: HOW DO YOUR PRODUCTS STAND OUT FROM SIMILAR TYPES OFFERED IN THE MARKET?

A: Atlas Homewares’ collections are in sync with what’s happening in fashion. Like collections from the best fashion designers, our lines can be mixed and matched with coordinating pieces to create a cohesive, finished look. Our customers love to pick and choose just the right pieces and finishes to suit their own individual style. With so many choices available, making a final decision can be a long process, but the Atlas team makes it fun and easy with affordable options to suit any budget.

We like to offer our customers the opportunity to make “stand out” design choices, like our **Wide Square** and **Platform Collections**. Their simple-yet-daring aesthetic holds a broad appeal and range in size up to an impressive 11 ⁵/₁₆ inches. Also eye-catching is our beautiful **Crystal Collection** of shimmering jewel-encased knobs and pulls that add a touch of elegant bling to any room.

Q: INTO WHICH STYLES OF KITCHEN PROJECTS DO YOUR PRODUCTS TYPICALLY FIT?

A: Atlas Homewares has a style to suit any kitchen, from modern to vintage, subtle to bold or novelty to traditional. Many of our collections are quite versatile, too. Our **Chunky Knob Collection** is a perfect example. Its hip, geometric design is in vogue with industrial-chic style, while its clean lines and simple silhouette complement many different decors.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY NEW PRODUCTS YOU’D LIKE TO TELL OUR READERS ABOUT?

A: We are excited about the fun mix-and-match options for our new **Campaign Collection**. Its crisp military-inspired design offers a bold industrial style mixed with hints of retro and modern. Choose a traditional rope or screw backplate design and pair with your choice of round or rectangular knobs or pulls. Different configurations in a mix of distinctive finishes add even more opportunities for customization.

Q: WHY DO YOU FEEL THE READERS OF KBB SELECTED ATLAS HOMEWARES AS A PREFERRED MANUFACTURER WHEN IT COMES TO DECORATIVE HARDWARE?

A: We are honored to be selected as a preferred manufacturer and feel confident that readers respond to our style-savvy collections that change with the seasons. We aspire to set new trends in finishes and sizes and will continue to seek unique sources of inspiration for future designs. We take pride in offering an ever-changing rotation of innovative decorative hardware that complements and enhances today’s home décor. ■

atlas
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ATLAS HOMEWARES: AT A GLANCE

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PRODUCTS OFFERED:

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What's Hot



What's Hot in Bathroom Faucets

1. Responding to the demand for urban bath designs, **DELTA**'s Zura bath collection brings together rounded, rectangular and triangular elements for a sophisticated look. The collection includes deck-mount faucets in matte black or chrome finishes.

2. Water-saving taps from **FIR ITALIA** save 1.58 gallons per minute, which conserves about 50 percent of water consumption. In addition, the company now installs an aerator with a limiter on all standard applications.

3. **ISENBERG**'s New Series 150 includes 20 pieces for a full line of matching bath fixtures. The 150 faucet shown here has a simple geometric look that pairs well with the rest of the collection.

4. Featuring rock-like Petra handles, the Isla High Profile Lavatory Faucet from **WATERWORKS** boasts an organic look available in nickel, unlacquered brass, burnished nickel and burnished brass finishes.

5. Designed by Vincent Van Duysen, the Icona Deco faucet from **FANTINI** has lever-shaped controls for a minimalist look. The collection is available in finishes that range from traditional chrome and nickel to gun metal or bronze.

6. In recognition of its 60th anniversary, **THG PARIS** revisits its Pétale de Cristal collection with the Numero 60 faucet. The piece is engraved by hand with a stencil and then filled with gold power and polished for a lotus flower look.



Atypical ABOUT





BELOW Sheet shoring kept the hillside in place during the project and saved the trees. Aluminum-clad Marvin windows with Douglas fir are located all over the house to take full advantage of the daylight and views. The windows, valances and light shelves in the home are trimmed with new white oak.

A

couple in Ann Arbor, Mich., wanted to build a one-of-a-kind, sustainable home that would take advantage of the views of the nearby arboretum and incorporate as much natural light as possible through ample windows. The architect, builder and designers worked with the clients – David and Valerie – to create the extraordinary three-story house that captured the exterior panorama, made use of the reclaimed lumber from the former structure and pushed the limits with color and material selections.

“The homeowners were really interested in the entire process,” said Alisha Serras, an owner of Scavolini Detroit. “She loved looking at the colors and went pretty bold in some selections, but we made sure things were not too aggressive. He even put a time-lapse camera on a tree nearby to document the process of the build.”

A couple chooses anything but ordinary for the kitchen and bathrooms in their wood-flanked fortress

By Chelsie Butler



Kitchen Ease and Customization

The homeowners wanted a kitchen in which both could operate at the same time and where they could entertain comfortably. Because they enjoy cooking often, they were most interested in the functionality of the space and thought a lot about where things would go. Meadowlark Builders worked on the layout, while Scavolini came up with several ideas to optimize the function of the cabinets, including maximizing storage with base units in lieu of wall units.

“Valerie did a great deal of reviewing cabinets to make sure she selected those that allowed her to venture into a unique color palette and provided the specific details she wanted,” said Melissa Kennedy, design manager with Meadowlark Builders. “Since there is a great deal of reclaimed wood in the home, the kitchen needed to be a different material – something that would complement the craftsmanship of the wood and stone and provide counterbalance to the surrounding materials and textures.”

The overall kitchen collection is called LiberaMente by Scavolini, and the perimeter cabinets feature a glossy Olive Tree laminate. The island countertop is in Crema Gold Marinace granite, which Serras says is an intricate, natural stone that looks like it comes from ancient riverbeds. The Baltic Blue glossy lacquer on the island features seven coats of paint polish for extra shine and durability. The remaining countertops are quartz, and the counter space is extra deep at 27 inches for additional storage and placement of readily accessible items.

“They wanted something original; the wife, in particular, is not afraid of color,” said Serras. “They wanted the finishes in the kitchen to match the boldness of the rest of the house – they are progressive thinkers.”

The clients were also very particular about where the cabinets were placed, even specifying an island drawer that opens in an unexpected direction so they can open it and easily set the nearby table with its contents. Serras, Kennedy and the clients went through each individual cabinet to see how they could accommodate various functions. A peninsula piece is used as a “drop zone” for bags, and the island is conveniently located for prep work in the L-shaped kitchen. A pantry near the refrigerator but just off of the kitchen is used for overflow and to house appliances the homeowners use regularly but do not want to store on a countertop.



TOP & ABOVE The kitchen features ample window space encompassing two totally different views. The blue island is a statement piece and makes the space pop.

Wide doorways and zero thresholds help make the home user friendly for everyone.

RIGHT A cabinet peninsula holds grocery bags so the homeowners can unload those directly into the pantry beside it.



Master Bath Movement

The main goal for this bath was to create a relaxing, spa-like atmosphere in more than just a functional space that didn't feel tight and cramped; each area is spacious and breathes. Instead of being shoved in a corner, the light and airy soaking tub is a focal point with expansive windows just beyond that overlook one of the home's green roofs.

"The three tall windows that serve as the backdrop for the bathtub frame a beautiful picture of the exterior natural backdrop," said Kennedy.

This crisp white tub is nestled between the showering area and the separate toilet room, which is much larger than the average water closet with a door that – whether open or closed – still provides the desired privacy. Each of the spaces is strategically located near a window – even the toilet room – which takes advantage of natural light, thus decreasing the need for electrical usage.

The "floating" cream-colored, lacquered vanities are clustered together on one of the interior walls. According to Kennedy, these vanities, along with mirrors that are also part of the Scavolini collection, act more like furniture pieces in the bathroom and are centered on the wall – allowing additional spaces for simple accessories needed to optimize the function in the bath. The large shower also features a see-through glass panel that lets in extra light, and the design team used warmer tile to make the space feel comfortable.

"The house has an interesting geometry, so what could have been an awkward bath feels comfortable in the space it has," said Kennedy. "It feels like you are floating in the trees from this bathroom on the second story."

One challenge with the master bath design centered on balancing out the various finishes for the space.

"A few months into the selections phase of the project, we were informed that Scavolini released their bathroom cabinetry line to the U.S.," said Kennedy. "Once we looked at the cabinets and realized they were art pieces on their own, we had to re-think the balance of the other finishes in the space. We determined that the bathroom cabinets would be best celebrated if we selected floor and wall finishes that supported the cabinetry instead of taking away from it."



TOP & BOTTOM The vanities "float" along one of the interior bathroom walls, while the toilet room, bathtub and showering space are strategically placed along the exterior wall.

MIDDLE LEFT & RIGHT The design team used warm tile in the shower to make it more comfortable, and three tall windows frame the tub and the exterior view.

Overcoming Various Challenges

As previously mentioned, one of the kitchen island cabinet drawers opens in a non-traditional way, which Serras said was a challenge because Scavolini's units are usually only available in standard sizes with all doors facing in the same direction. This particular line is semi-custom, which allowed her the flexibility to meet her client's request.

Sustainable Solutions

Being energy efficient and recycling as many materials as possible were important to the homeowners, which was apparent in all areas of the house.

- **Let There Be Light.** The lighting system is by Lutron and guided by Gross Electric that Kennedy says allows a "setting of the mood" in the home's public spaces. "This option is a unique approach to reduce the number of switches that need to be controlled," she added. "Just one push on a touch-screen pad sets as many lights as you wish to a level pre-selected."
- **Cabinet Kudos.** All of Scavolini's cabinet materials are made from low-formaldehyde panels, and because the interiors of the cabinets are made from post-consumer recycled content, no new trees are cut down in their making.
- **Repurposed Wood.** Site-milled cherry from the building site was used as paneling for bookshelves and office cabinets in the living area adjacent to the kitchen. "The Western red cedar ceilings and wall paneling, as well as the Douglas fir beams in the home, came from the former house on the site, of which nearly 100 percent of the finish lumber and beams were recycled into the new home," explained Kennedy. The stair treads were milled from a nearby elm tree that was felled in a storm.
- **Small-Site Geothermal Heating & Cooling.** Four 180-ft.-deep wells on the property provide all of the forced air for the home. "Both an incredibly efficient building envelope and state-of-the-art mechanical systems create an extremely efficient home that uses approximately 1/3 of the energy of a code-built home of the same size with far less functionality," said Kennedy.
- **Green Roofs.** A series of trays with drought-resistant plants sits on two roofs on top of the house. They are used to cut down on solar absorption compared to a typical black membrane roof.
- **Water Saving.** PEX tubing is used instead of copper lines for water delivery in the house. The red and blue water lines run directly from a manifold to the fixture itself. "Since all of these lines are 'home runs,' there are no joints in the plumbing that could potentially leak," said Kennedy. "The manifold allows the user to turn off a specific water line to do any work that may be needed."



LEFT AND BELOW The lacquer vanities in the secondary bathrooms feature bright colors with a seven-coat paint/polish process. According to Serras, the homeowners had a lot of fun with those spaces, and Kennedy said they were not concerned with everything being aligned and predictable.

There was another issue with the installation of the appliance wall. Serras explained that instead of the oven and refrigerator being encased by drywall, they are set back slightly into the wall and surrounded by a laminate veneer. Scavolini's install team had to remove the veneer from the backerboard and apply a super-thin laminate directly to the drywall onsite to achieve a built-in look.

"In lieu of seeing painted drywall, you see a finished detail that frames the appliance wall," added Serras.

She also noted that the choice of finishes in the kitchen and making sure the space served all of the homeowners' desired functions was a strategic effort.

"Since much of the reclaimed wood in the house features the patina of age on it, and since there is an open floor plan, the kitchen needed a certain weight to it," added Kennedy, who explained that at certain times, she and the architect warned the homeowners about the wide variety of species in the home clashing with each other. "The owner was confident about these details, however, and in the end, we all agreed that they make the house softer and easier to take in."

Because the homeowners wanted a spacious place to cook and host social events, there were multiple functions the kitchen needed to serve. The strategic, functional cabinetry layout allows two people to use the kitchen at the same time, while others can settle in at the island; or someone can be cooking, while the other is setting the table or loading the dishwasher.

"This whole project was a team effort," said Serras. "We worked really well together, and there were a lot of suggestions made and communication throughout the whole process." ●



SOURCES

DESIGN TEAM: Melissa Kennedy, Meadowlark (design manager); Marsie Klug, Meadowlark (custom cabinetry engineer); Alisha Serras, Scavolini Detroit (designer of the kitchen and bath cabinets); HopkinsBurns Design Studio (architect);

PHOTOGRAPHER: John Carlson, Carlson Productions

MASTER & SECONDARY BATH CABINETS: Scavolini Lagu; **COOKTOP:** GE Monogram 36-in. Stainless; **COUNTERTOPS:** Crema Gold Granite & Silestone Stellar Snow; **DISHWASHER:** Bosch 800 Plus Series; **FLOORING:** Character-Grade Cherry; **HOOD:** GE Monogram 36-in. Stainless; **KITCHEN CABINETS:** Scavolini LiberaMente Gloss Laminate; **PANTRY CABINETS:** Brookhaven Semi-Custom; **MICROWAVE:** GE Monogram Built-In Oven; **OVEN:** GE Monogram 30-in. Electronic Convention Single Wall Oven; **PLUMBING FIXTURES:** Barclay, Grohe, Hansgrohe, Kohler, Mirabelle, Moen, Scavolini, Victoria + Albert; **REFRIGERATOR:** GE Monogram 42-in. Slide-by-Side Stainless; **TILE:** American Olean, Ann Sacks, Pratt & Larson, Virginia Tile

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Publisher is not liable for errors or omissions.

Kitchen & Bath Business (ISSN 0730-2487) is published January, February/March, April, May/June, July/August, September, October, November/December, by Emerald Expositions 85 Broad Street, New York, NY 10004. Editorial offices: 1145 Sanctuary Parkway, Suite 355, Alpharetta, GA 30009. Volume 63, No. 5. U.S. Subscriptions \$79.00 one year, to individuals or firms engaged in retailing, wholesaling, or manufacturing of kitchen cabinets, bath vanities, built-in kitchens and baths. All other U.S. subscriptions \$83.00 per year. Qualified Canadian and Mexican subscriptions \$94.00 per year. All other foreign subscriptions \$139.00 per year. Single copies \$10.00 per issue, prepayment required. SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION, ADDRESS CHANGES AND SINGLE ISSUE REQUESTS: Write to Kitchen & Bath Business, P.O. Box 3601, Northbrook, IL 60065-3601. Canadian Post Publications Mail Agreement Number 40798037. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: Emerald Expositions, c/o P.O. Box 2601, 915 Dixie Rd., Mississauga, ON L4T0A9 CUSTOMER SERVICE INQUIRIES: Call (847) 559-7533 or Toll Free (800) 697-8859 or Fax (847) 291-4816, email: NKB@omeda.com. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Kitchen & Bath Business, Box 3601, Northbrook, IL 60065-3601. © Copyright 2016 Emerald Expositions

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