

# K+B B

DESIGN + INNOVATION + LIFESTYLE

## Urbane Living

A "wow" bath  
on a budget

Post-KBIS Issue



KITCHEN AND BATH BUSINESS / MAY/JUNE 2013

WWW.KBBONLINE.COM \$10 U.S.

THE OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF

**KBIS** 2014

## KBIS Products



Lenova has introduced a new line of commercial-grade, 16-gauge stainless sinks and accessories — the OT line — that includes three models with a 90-degree ledge pressed into the sink's front and back. The ledge converts the sink to a food prep center and is available with a stainless steel colander, cutting board and roll-up, stainless steel drain grid. This line of sinks can be undermounted or top mounted.

**Circle No. 300**



Moen has expanded its MotionSense hands-free technology to its Brantford pulldown kitchen faucet. MotionSense uses sensors to detect movement in two sensing zones, and faucets using this technology can be controlled in three ways: via a wave sensor at the top of the faucet, through a wave sensor near the faucet base and by a handle on the side of the faucet for manual operation. MotionSense is easy to install, and its battery pack can be housed under the sink for quick replacement. The Brantford faucet is available in chrome, oil-rubbed bronze and a new Spot Resist stainless finish. **Circle No. 301**



Caesarstone's newest designs to the Classico collection include Frosty Carrina, a soft ivory with grey veins; London Grey, an opaque light grey with soft charcoal veins; Dreamy Marfil, creamy beiges and gentle brown veins; Emperadoro, lush, deep browns with maple-colored veins; and Piatra Grey, slate grey with chalky white veins (pictured). The new colors are ideal for kitchen countertops, backsplashes, vanities, wallcoverings and furniture.

**Circle No. 302**

# Bathtub, Take Me Away

Whether the desire is a long soak or a jetted massage, freestanding tubs are the focal point of today's bathroom

Dwindling are the days when people preferred to take a nice, long bath instead of a quick, hot shower. Or are they?

According to Duravit's 2013 Trend Report, the bathroom is no longer a merely functional place but has become an at-home destination for respite and rejuvenation. While some people appreciate the efficiency of taking a shower, it seems there are just as many who see their bathrooms as an oasis and appreciate the luxury of being able to lounge in a bathtub.

"The bath versus a shower is all about what kind of experience a homeowner wants — invigorating or relaxing," said Gray Uhl, American Standard's director of design. "A lot of people prefer a separate soaking tub that is used for decompression and personal time."

With all of the options available, and because of size constraints in many situations, the choice can sometimes be a challenge.

"Customers who come to us looking for tub ideas are typically looking for ways to incorporate comfort into their bathrooms," said Stephanie Marshall, senior interior designer at Kohler's Design Center. "I start by talking to them about how they want to use their bathrooms and what they enjoy about bathing, which really determines the type of bath I suggest. Sure, sometimes it's about installation style, but I can usually focus on the client's experience and then match the bathtub to that experience."

The following illustrates trends in tub types that are attractive to bathtub bathers — and buyers.

## FREESTANDING TUBS

"I have seen a lot more freestanding tubs than in the past, because they do not have to be traditional anymore — they can also feature a modern design," said Marshall.

Uhl says freestanding tubs are popular for a variety of reasons:

- There is the perception that they are more upscale than a built-in tub.
- They use less water, therefore being more energy efficient.
- They let you see more floor space and give the illusion of a larger bathroom.

Another draw, according to Russell Adams, president at MTL, is that with freestanding tubs, it is easy for designers to do an installation at the end of a project.

"Right now, freestanding tubs seem to be the fastest-growing segment of our business, and we don't see this changing in the near future," said Dino Pacifici, Americh's vice president. "Freestanding baths add a certain elegance to a bathroom and create a popular focal point in bathroom construction and renovations."

## SOAKING TUBS

This kind of tub is deeper and shorter than most traditional products, and it provides just that — an all-body soak that can provide great health benefits.

According to [www.wisegeek.com](http://www.wisegeek.com), "The purpose behind the depths of these tubs is the ability to easily soak the entire body in water. This is also the reason for the shortened length or circumference. With this kind of design, it takes less water to fill the entire tub than with traditional long bathtubs."



"We see the desire for basic soaking tubs — without jets and systems," said Adams. "Some people just want to use the tub for function and do not want to spend the money on all the bells and whistles."

## TUBS WITH AMENITIES

"We are seeing a lot of high-end tubs loaded down with things like hydrotherapy systems to create a personal spa," said Adams.

Hydrotherapy systems come in different forms, including a variety of powerful jets that provide deep-tissue massage for muscle tension to specific areas of the body, air baths that massage through tiny bubbles, as well as a combination of the two. Combination tubs are a customizable option that can cater to different needs.

"Someone may be looking for a great soaker tub but does not want to miss out on the whirlpool or bubble functions," said Marshall, "so for that person, I would look to the combination baths that offer more than just one bathing experience."

Perhaps not luxury options, but rather amenities gaining in necessity, include lumbar support, arm rests and grab bars for people needing assistance in and out of the bathtub. Walk-in tubs are also available.

"The bottom line is that while owners may not have time to spend in their tubs every day," said Adams, "they see them every day, so they want their tubs to be a work of art." ■

— Chelsie Butler

Opposite page:

**Victoria + Albert's** Radford roll-top, freestanding bathtub is inspired by the Victorian Period but includes elements of modern-day refinement. The double-ended tub can accommodate up to two bathers and offers an incline that fully supports the body. Made from the company's Englishcast, a naturally white, volcanic limestone material, the Radford bathtub can easily maintain water temperature with its superior insulating properties. **Circle No. 200**

**MTI's** freestanding, acrylic, transitional Haven bathtub features a flat rim for a contemporary feel and a headrest at both ends. Designed for comfortable baths, Haven measures 71-in. x 41-in. x 26-in. and is available in several colors, including black, cashmere and sterling silver. Part of the company's Designer Series, Haven is completely customizable with such items as a whisper-quiet pump; fully-adjustable, high-flow point massage jets; and silent air volume control. **Circle No. 201**

**Kohler's** Stargaze freestanding acrylic bathtub features a smooth texture, clean lines and an easy-to-clean surface — all at a moderate price point. Designed for budget-conscious homeowners, Stargaze also offers lumbar support at both ends and an ergonomic design. The tub features a wide deck along one side for easy faucet placement and installation and is available in white or biscuit. **Circle No. 202**

This page:

**Jason International** is offering MicroSilk hydrotherapy as an option for its line of freestanding bathtubs, which now includes six new one-piece, seamless models in oval and rectangular shapes. The tubs are easy to clean and feature an ergonomic design for optimal well depth and lumbar support. MicroSilk's microbubbles provide a gentle, deep cleaning of the pores. **Circle No. 203**

**American Standard's** modern Saver tub provides more bathing room in a 5-ft. x 30-in. standard footprint with a curved-front apron and is easy to clean. Optional matching wall surrounds with extra storage space and a curved shower door are also available. Interlocking panels and a three-sided, built-in water retention and tiling flange provide ease of installation. The bathtub's textured bottom helps prevent slips. **Circle No. 204**

Rianna, **Americh's** version of the freestanding, acrylic soaking bathtub, is available in two sizes and is also available as an air bath. It features a pedestal base and center drain and comes in multiple colors, including bone, ice gray, linen, white and almond. Grab bars, rails, pillows, head support and chromotherapy lighting are optional amenities. **Circle No. 205**

# What's Hot in Hardware



Prodigy is **Omnia's** first line of moderately priced, solid brass door hardware and features sleek and sparkling designs. Available in a variety of finishes, including polished brass, oil-rubbed bronze, satin nickel and polished chrome, Prodigy can be customized by pairing the forged brass trim with any of four concealed, screw-mounted roses. Each Omnia design is hand polished and buffed and then finished with a transparent lacquer that is baked on for durability. **Circle No. 206**

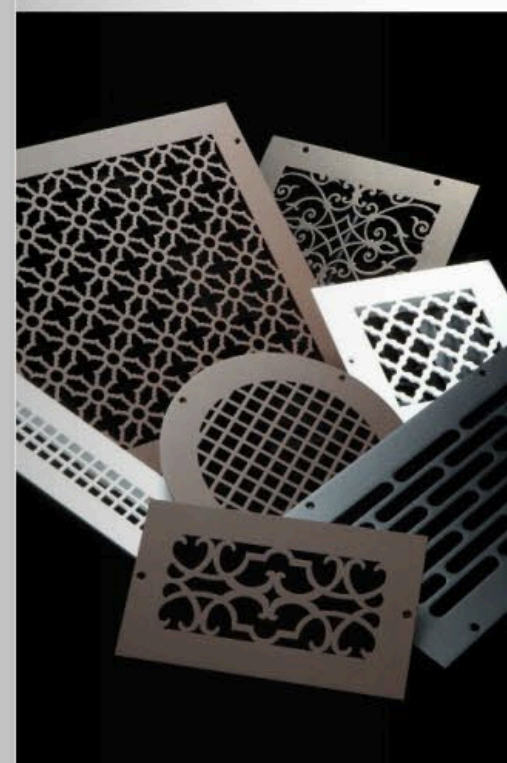
Cairo by Jeffrey Alexander is one of four new collections of kitchen cabinetry hardware from **Hardware Resources**. Displaying geometric lines, Cairo is available in two pull sizes — 96 and 128mm — and is available in four finishes: bright nickel brushed with dull lacquer, dark-brushed antique copper, polished chrome and satin nickel. The collection ranges in price from \$4.72 to \$7.74. **Circle No. 208**



Combination leather Goose Neck door levers from **Turnstyle Designs** feature a classic curved neck with a traditional and more feminine appearance. The levers are available with the tube stitch in, tube stitch out (shown) and regular stitch versions, as well as in six leather colors, including Yachting Yellow, Jazz Red, Racing Green, Chocolate, Chestnut and Black. Bright chrome, satin nickel, dark bronze and polished nickel finishes are also available, and the entire collection is offered with the same grip designs as the company's Combination range of door levers. **Circle No. 207**



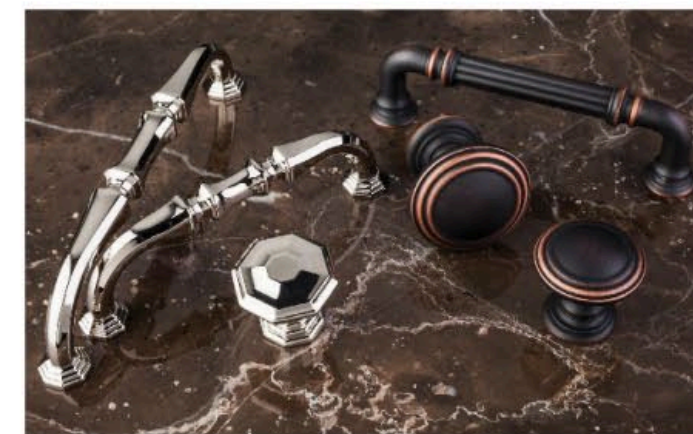
**Atlas Homewares** introduces Emerald knobs to its Dream Glass collection as a nod to Pantone's 2013 Color of the Year. The limited-edition collection features polka dots, and the 1.5-in. knobs are available in round or square shapes with a matte black or polished chrome finish. They retail for \$22.68/apiece and can be used in the kitchen or the bathroom. **Circle No. 209**



Decorative air-conditioning registers from **SteelCrest** feature a 1/8-in. steel grill frame, as well as a powder-coated finish. They are available in more than 20 colors and offer an optional bevel edge for a softer appearance on floor registers and grills. Steel or aluminum opposable-blade dampers are easy to adjust. All of the company's designs are available for its decorative grills, ornamental vents, air registers, heat vents and floor registers. The company's Silver Line of decorative air-conditioning covers is available in 74 sizes, in five colors and in six patterns. **Circle No. 211**



**Columbo Design** introduces the new line of Basic affordable bathroom accessories. The chrome collection comes with a 10-year guarantee and includes a soap dispenser, glass holder, two types of soap dish holders, four towel rail models, a shelf, two hangers, three types of paper holders and hanging and standing brush holders. Basic comes with screws, dowels and mounting bolts, and each product can be easily fixed to surfaces with a non-invasive fastening kit. **Circle No. 210**



**Tob Knobs** has added three patterns to its Chateau Collection — Reeded, which includes two knobs, five pulls and one appliance; Chalet, which has one knob, five pulls and one appliance; and Shrewsbury, which comes with two round knobs, a T knob and three pulls. Available in Black Iron, Tuscan Bronze, Brushed Satin Nickel, Polished Nickel and Polished Chrome finishes, the kitchen hardware collection ranges in price from \$5.80 to \$168 per piece. **Circle No. 212**