

# K+B B

DESIGN + INNOVATION + LIFESTYLE

Reader's  
Choice  
**Winners  
Unveiled**

## Bright Bathroom **Makeover**

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# Something for Everyone

Mobility needs are discreetly highlighted in master bathroom design



The primary needs for the main bathroom in a home in Melbourne, Australia, were to accommodate the clients' young son's special needs and limited mobility and to feature a design that would be suitable for the entire family, as well as guests.

Bubbles Bathrooms – a trendsetter in Australian bathroom design – was commissioned to design this space, which required a shower large enough for assisted bathing, as well as a freestanding tub and seating area. Before the design process could start, the original space needed to be gutted.

"This was necessary firstly for compliance with the new building codes in Australia," said Owen Barnes, principal designer with the Melbourne-based firm, "and secondly to properly prepare the space structurally for the modifications planned. It was completely stripped, and the space started fresh with just the physical room size, window and door locations left to dictate the design."

## Recommendations and Implementations

Barnes and his team paid close attention to recommendations from the son's physiotherapist when designing the new bathroom in relation to flow and accessibility. "The layout of the fixtures and fittings was also carefully planned to ensure the caretakers' ability to move with ease within the space," he added.

According to Barnes, it was also important to the clients that the new design be suitable for someone with mobility limitations without appearing to be a space obviously designed as such.

"We considered the clients' needs and came up with alternative, yet functional solutions," he said. "No grab rails are currently required."



*Task lighting brightens up the vanity area, and bench height as well as possible future wheelchair access to the sink were considered and applied in the design of this universal bathroom in Melbourne, Australia.*



*A freestanding, stone composite bathtub with a seating area was used to create initial impact upon entry into the space. A water-saving toilet and showerhead were also used in the design.*

Pedestal basins were installed so that a wheelchair could easily fit underneath them, and reinforcements were built into the wall as a consideration for future grab rails. Bench height and possible future wheelchair access to the vanity were also considered and applied.

The bulky, out-of-place window was restyled with clear glass to take advantage of the private garden space outside, and a large, freestanding, composite stone bathtub creates impact upon entry. Bathtub faucets are deliberately positioned for the caretakers to provide assisted bathing, as is the "perching space" attached to the vanity.

Darker porcelain tiles were used on the wall behind the tub to contrast with the lighter walls and add depth to the room, and building code-compliant, 12-volt, Edison-style task lighting was used for the vanity. Sustainable design elements were also considered and include a water-saving toilet, faucets and showerhead, as well as energy-efficient LED lighting.

"Australia has strict compliance regulations for saving water because we live in such a dry environment," said Barnes. "Our drinking water is also some of the purest in the world, so we use special brass inside the faucets to make sure it doesn't get contaminated."

## Lessons Learned

According to Barnes, a lot of designers miss the mark on the layout and flow of a bathroom.

"We are constantly seeing designers not properly evaluating and taking seriously the adequate flow in bathrooms for movement, safety and accessibility," he added.

One concern with layout is positioning showers too close to an entry point, which Barnes says will cause the tracking of water and "wet" the floor in front of the door. Another issue is the location of the toilet, as from a visual perspective there should not be a direct view of the toilet from a doorway, whenever possible. Barnes says changing the position of a door swing or using a modesty screen often achieves this. ■

— Chelsie Butler

## Sources

**Designer:** Owen Barnes of Bubbles Bathrooms, Melbourne, Australia;

**Photographer:** Paul West; **Bathtub and Sink:** Victoria + Albert; **Faucets:**

Astra Walker and Parisi; **Toilet:** Parisi; **Vanity:** Caesarstone and Laminex

*The shower space had to be large enough to allow for assisted bathing, and the window was moved and restyled to take advantage of the private garden space outside.*



# What's Hot in Bathroom Accessories and Kitchen Ventilation



The energy-efficient Verona Island kitchen ventilation hood from **Zephyr** features a straight glass canopy and an LED light display and is made of stainless steel and glass. The user can choose cloud white, deep blue and amber color settings to match any kitchen décor. The Verona Island is outfitted with a DCBL Suppression System, which combines a DC motor and an on-board computer, which reduces the hood's noise by 77 percent. It has exceeded Energy Star standards by offering 1.7 CFM per watt compared to the current standard of 2.8 CFM per watt. **Circle No. 210**



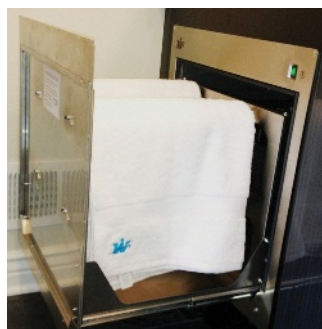
The Tombolo Bath Caddy from **Victoria + Albert** is designed with gentle curves to fit over the edge of some of the company's rimless bathtubs, including Amalfi, Barcelona, Edge and Napoli. Made from European-sourced hardwood, the caddy, which can hold up to two wine glasses, features a built-in towel holder and is available in light oak or walnut laminate finishes. **Circle No. 211**



**Style Moderne's** new Samuel Heath luxury accessory line features 20 crafted products, including a beveled-edge mirror, an escutcheon-mount toilet paper holder, a tumbler with a wall-mounted holder, a wall-mounted soap dish and a glass shelf with a fixed rail (pictured). Available finishes for the Art Deco-inspired line include chrome plate, polished nickel, stainless steel and antique gold. **Circle No. 212**



Hidden Reflections LCD HDTV mirrors from **ClearView** can be modified for any design requirement from 7 to 80 inches and are available in a variety of sizes and shapes. Edge options include framed, sandblasted, flat, rounded and beveled, and electronic options include speakers, lighting, wall control, motion sensors and an IR light indicator. With the press of a button, the TV is concealed by the mirror's clear reflection and becomes completely undetectable. **Circle No. 213**



The new cabinet towel warmer from **Western Premium** heats towels by using forced air to evenly distribute heat. The warmer has the capacity for two full-size bath towels and offers a slide-out drawer for easy loading and unloading. It features a pre-set operating temperature of 140 degrees with a 20-minute heat time and an automatic shutdown safety feature and is made of stainless-steel components. It retails for \$1,750. **Circle No. 214**

# K+BB READERS' choice AWARDS 2013

*Kitchen and Bath Business* is proud to present the winners of the first annual *K+BB* Readers' Choice Awards. Nearly 1,500 *K+BB* readers cast their vote online and selected their favorite brands and manufacturers in 22 different kitchen and bath categories.

Listed below are the top vote getters in each of these categories, listed alphabetically, to represent not only the brand manufacturers but also the specific types, styles, materials and price levels in which they offer products. Our readers were asked to make their choices according to criteria including, but not limited to, 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.

The result is simple, the "best of the best" in our industry as determined by you. Join us in congratulating these companies for a job well done in delivering quality products and superior service.

On the following pages is more detailed information on some of our winning companies that are being recognized by your peers and why they are deserving of this recognition.

— **Natasha Selhi**

Publisher

*Kitchen and Bath Business*

## COOKING APPLIANCES

Category Specific Criteria: *Energy Efficiency, Design/Style, Ease of Cleaning*

GE  
KitchenAid  
Miele  
Thermador  
Viking  
Wolf

## DISHWASHERS

Category Specific Criteria: *Energy Efficiency, Integration into Cabinetry, Design/Style*

Bosch  
GE  
KitchenAid  
Miele

## REFRIGERATION APPLIANCES

Category Specific Criteria: *Energy Efficiency, Integration into Cabinetry, Design/Style*

GE  
KitchenAid  
LG  
Sub-Zero  
Whirlpool

## KITCHEN FLOORING

Category Specific Criteria: *Style/Aesthetics, Durability*

Armstrong Flooring  
Crossville, Inc.  
Dal Tile  
Walker Zanger

## KITCHEN FAUCETS

Category Specific Criteria: *Water Efficiency, Style/Aesthetics/Finish*

Delta Faucet Company  
Elkay Sinks + Faucets  
Grohe  
Kohler Co.  
Moen

## KITCHEN CABINETS

Category Specific Criteria: *Craftsmanship/Design/Style, Door Styles/Finishes, Ability to customize/modify, Construction Quality*

Dura Supreme  
IKEA  
Kraftmaid  
MasterBrand Cabinets, Inc  
Medallion Cabinetry  
Poggenpohl

## KITCHEN COUNTERTOPS

Category Specific Criteria: *Stain Resistance, Heat Resistance, Style/Aesthetics*

Caesarstone  
Cambria  
DuPont Corian  
Formica Corporation  
Silestone  
Wilsonart LLC

## KITCHEN SINKS

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

American Standard  
Blanco  
Elkay Sinks + Faucets  
Kohler Co.  
Rohl

## KITCHEN VENTILATION

Category Specific Criteria: *Effectiveness, Noise Level*

Best  
Broan  
Vent-A-Hood  
Wolf

## BATH CABINETS/ VANITIES

Category Specific Criteria: *Craftsmanship/ Design/Style/Aesthetics, Door Styles/Finishes, Ability to customize/modify, Construction Quality*

Bertch  
Fairmont  
Kraftmaid  
MasterBrand Cabinets, Inc.  
Medallion Cabinetry  
Ronbow

## BATH FLOORING

Category Specific Criteria: *Durability, Style/Aesthetics*

Armstrong Flooring  
Dal Tile  
Florida Tile  
Walker Zanger

## BATH WALL COVERINGS

Category Specific Criteria: *Style/Design/ Aesthetics, Durability*

Ann Sacks  
Dal Tile  
Florida Tile  
Walker Zanger

## TUBS AND WHIRLPOOLS

Category Specific Criteria: *Style/Aesthetics*

American Standard  
BainUltra  
Jacuzzi  
Kohler Co.  
TOTO USA, Inc.  
Victoria + Albert

## BATH SINKS

Category Specific Criteria: *Style/Aesthetics, Durability*

American Standard  
Duravit  
Elkay Sinks + Faucets  
Kohler Co.  
TOTO USA, Inc.

## TOILETS

Category Specific Criteria: *Water Efficiency, Style/Aesthetics*

American Standard  
Duravit  
Geberit  
Kohler Co.  
TOTO USA, Inc.

## BATH FAUCETS

Category Specific Criteria: *Water Efficiency, Style/Aesthetics*

Delta Faucet Company  
Elkay Sinks + Faucets  
Hansgrohe  
Kohler Co.  
Moen  
Rohl

## SHOWER SYSTEMS

Category Specific Criteria: *Water Efficiency, Style/Aesthetics*

Delta Faucet Company  
Grohe  
Hansgrohe  
Kohler Co.  
Moen  
Rohl

## BATH VENTILATION

Category Specific Criteria: *Effectiveness, Noise Level*

Broan  
Fantech  
NuTone  
Panasonic

## BATH ACCESSORIES

Category Specific Criteria: *Style/Design/ Ability to Coordinate with Fixtures*

American Standard  
Elkay Sinks + Faucets  
Ginger  
Hansgrohe  
Moen  
Top Knobs

## HARDWARE, DECORATIVE

Category Specific Criteria: *Style/Aesthetics/ Ability to Coordinate with Fixtures*

Amerock  
Häfele  
Richelieu  
Rocky Mountain Hardware  
Top Knobs

## HARDWARE, FUNCTIONAL

Category Specific Criteria: *Style/Aesthetics*

Blum, Inc.  
Häfele  
Hardware Resources  
Rev-A-Shelf  
Rocky Mountain Hardware

## LIGHTING

Category Specific Criteria: *Style*

Juno Lighting  
Kichler Lighting  
Lutron  
Progress Lighting