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DESIGN + INNOVATION + LIFESTYLE

2015
**DESIGN
AWARD
WINNERS**

**Shower
Systems
Offer
Limitless
Options**

**Tips on
Choosing
Color**

KITCHEN AND BATH BUSINESS / SEPTEMBER 2015

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1. MTI Baths' Boutique Collection Teak Bench is available with Parsons-style legs or waterfall-style sides. It can be used both indoors and outdoors and is made from engineered solid stone with a teak inlay. **Circle No. 219 or visit kbbonline.com/freeinfo**

2. Steamist is adding ShowerSense to the Total Sense selection of options. The Total Sense TSC-450 touchscreen digital control can be used to select one of two shower temperatures, programmed to match each user's preferences. **Circle No. 220 or visit kbbonline.com/freeinfo**

3. Kohler's DTV+ integrates water, sound, steam and lighting elements for a multi-sensory shower experience. Controlled with a touchscreen interface, it allows users to select a two-, three- or six-outlet digital valve to control water delivery. **Circle No. 221 or visit kbbonline.com/freeinfo**

4. MGS' S0604 showerhead offers rain shower and waterfall options that can be used simultaneously. All MGS showerheads feature thermostatic mixers to incorporate volume control, which is operated independently of temperature control. **Circle No. 222 or visit kbbonline.com/freeinfo**

5. Attract hand showers with Magnetix technology from **Moen** have an easy release and put back. They offer a dial so consumers can switch among six high-performance spray options, and each setting features optimized pressure. **Circle No. 223 or visit kbbonline.com/freeinfo**

More (Simple) Technology, Less Stress

Society is immersed in technology, and the argument goes that less tech also equals less stress. On the contrary, shower manufacturers maintain that technology makes our lives easier when it is simple and easy to use.

"Consumers are exposed to more and more technology throughout their lives and have become extremely comfortable using it," said Reffner. "I don't believe more technology necessarily equals more luxury. As technology proliferates, it may be viewed as expected versus luxury."

Digital shower controls set personal preferences for all of those shower options, making the experience simple and fast, which saves time and water. Additional accessories, like televisions and remote-control activation, can also boost a shower. These high-tech details are still up and coming, however, and often designers find that preferences are regional.

"Our clients shy away from added technology in showers," said Barry Connolly, a designer at Seattle-based Chermak Construction, Inc. "Our clients seem to want an experience away from the digital interaction their days are filled with already."

Instead, Connolly predicts that adaptable and integrated lighting details will become more popular in the coming years, and the more obvious technology in the shower will fade.

What's In and What's Next

Contemporary styles and streamlined designs translate into simpler looks in the shower.

"Contemporary design means less is more," said Bergossi. "In Europe, where many residential structures are hundreds of years old, it is not uncommon to install contemporary designed products. In fact, it is refreshing to see."



Exposed and semi-exposed shower systems and valves have been the mainstay for European bathrooms and are now seeping into American design. Aside from aesthetic merit, having the exposed plumbing makes installation, servicing and functionality easier. With the added exposure, plumbing and showerheads have also become more artful. More high-end finishes are being embraced in the shower, and eco-luxury products are entering the mainstream alongside therapeutic shower systems.

"Manufacturers are trying to think outside the box on how they can offer therapy in new, exciting ways," said Audrey Loder, director of showrooms at Wilkinson Supply Co. "Whether it be the multi-functional shower for the person looking for a jet at every turn, to the eco-conscious consumer who wants a single low-flow showerhead, to the baby boomer adding a hand-held shower as they plan on aging in place - everyone is most looking for a customizable shower that seems made just for them." ■

— By *Erinn Waldo*



Addressing the issue of keeping food frozen during a power outage, the **Frigidaire** Gallery 2-in-1 Upright Freezer/Refrigerator will keep frozen food intact for up to two days during an outage. The unit can also turn from a freezer into a refrigerator at the flip of a switch, resists fingerprints and cleans easily with a smudge-proof, stainless steel finish. **Circle No. 230 or visit kbbonline.com/freeinfo**

Atlas Homewares has expanded its Zanzibar Collection of chrome handles with a durable and washable faux leather line. New colors include indigo blue and burnished bronze, and the collection is available in five sizes, from 1.9-in. knobs to 20-in. appliance pulls. **Circle No. 231 or visit kbbonline.com/freeinfo**



Gaggenau's freezer column has a stainless steel interior and an integrated automatic ice maker with a fixed water connection. Along with an energy-saving vacation mode and an open door and malfunction warning system, the column offers dynamic cool air distribution with a multi-flow air system. **Circle No. 234 or visit kbbonline.com/freeinfo**



Designed with a deep charcoal interior, the Obsidian refrigerator collection from **Jenn-Air** puts food on display with multi-point LED lighting and a metallic accent in the dark tone. Soft-close drawers and a climate-control system add further luxury. **Circle No. 232 or visit kbbonline.com/freeinfo**

Miele has introduced a freestanding wine storage unit, the KWT 6832 SGS. Providing storage for up to 178 bottles, the unit includes three independent temperature zones, space to chill wine glasses and blackboard-type magnetic strips on the bottle rack for organizing and labeling. **Circle No. 233 or visit kbbonline.com/freeinfo**



Stone Harbor Hardware has introduced five new hardware collections, including the Contemporary Square Collection for modern designs. This collection offers pulls in seven different lengths and is made of solid, die-cast zinc. **Circle No. 235 or visit kbbonline.com/freeinfo**