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# Kitchen & Bath design news



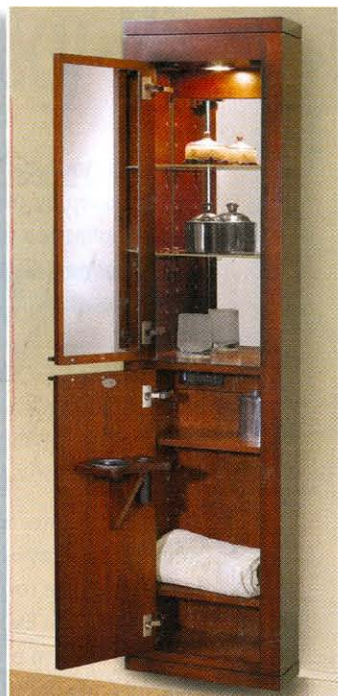
## Custom Appeal

KBDN's 2010 most-asked-about products as tallied by  
reader request spotlight customization, sustainability

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Custom Colors Add  
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## Medicine Tower

**1.** For Hib Johnson, president of Canton, GA-based **The Furniture Guild**, customization is king.

"With pieces like the Matthew Partially Recessed Medicine Tower, there are a lot of options. It can be tailored to fit the client's lifestyle, so you can create a regular storage cabinet, or you can create a piece that you can get dressed in front of and use for your daily routine."

The tower is designed to fit between two standard wall studs, protruding just 6" from the wall. It is eco-friendly, constructed of Glazed Lyptus.

The version shown at left includes electric lighting and blow dryer/curling iron holder.

"Customization will continue to be key for these types of products," stresses Johnson.

"In the end, there is a ton of flexibility built into this product, and customers truly appreciate the ability to customize anything," he adds.

**Circle No. 195 on Product Card**

# FIRST CLASS



## Drawer Accessories

**(Tie) 2. Alno AG**, based in Pfullendorf, Germany offers refined wood inserts in smoked oak for drawers of any width. Cutlery and knife block stations lie on red felt mats and can be combined with cylindrical holes and spice mills. Lid brackets are also available on red felt inserts. Adjustable dividers in smoked oak are part of the collection as well, and make safe storage possible with the help of screw-in wood pivots.

**Circle No. 196 on Product Card**



## Stone Swatches

**(Tie) 2. Marble Institute of America** presents a sample collection of 330 swatch cards that feature a selection of marbles, granites and travertines.

Gary Distelhorst, CEO of the Cleveland, OH-based MIA explains: "I think it's something that is desired by folks in the design community because it gives them access to a variety of different types of stone that they may never have seen before. It also lets designers see what stones are available in a variety of colors. So if they are working on a project where they want to use pink, this gives them a variety of stone options that would be compatible. It also allows them to search availability and price."

The natural stone images are showcased in an easy to carry swatch book, he adds.

"It's a lot easier to carry around, and it beats carrying around stone samples. Whatever the trend is, you will find at least multiple samples of stone to satisfy any look," he concludes.

**Circle No. 197 on Product Card**

**W**hether it's countertops fashioned from warm woods and metals, lighting that touts energy-saving options or cabinet storage that features innovative designs, the most dynamic products of 2010 have the ability to enhance and differentiate any space.

This is according to the *Kitchen & Bath Design News'* annual list of the most-asked-about products. The products were selected by tallying *KBDN* reader requests for more information made throughout the year – nearly 2,000 inquiries that were received by the magazine over the past 12 months.

Of note, many of the products on the list incorporate sustainable, eco-conscious materials such as lyptus and bamboo, natural stone and LED lighting. These types of products not only appeal to the eco-conscious designer, but provide long-term savings opportunities that can be passed on to the client.

Personal style also plays a key role with regard to this year's top products. The five different countertops featured (four of which placed in the Top 10) all provide aesthetic flexibility for designers.

Likewise, hardware was strongly represented, as four companies made the list. Styles range from leather combinations to sleek contemporary and three-dimensional options.

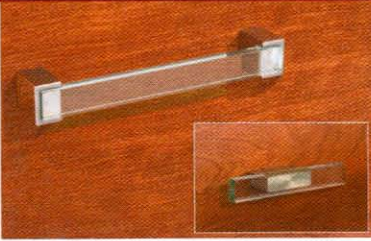
Of course, personalizing a space goes beyond aesthetics to include functionality. The call for storage – represented by the medicine tower that took top honors – illustrates the need for designers to provide rooms that maximize space and minimize stress for busy consumers.

This year's favorite storage products also included a maintenance storage unit that increases safety and convenience for the bath, as well as a cutlery drawer accessory for the kitchen.

As the call for more personalized product options increases, this year's most-asked-about products offer a clear glimpse into the future of product development – a future where dynamic style and intuitive function are not only possible, but predominant.

*KBDN's* 2010 Most-Asked-About Products showcase items that have captured the interest and imagination of kitchen and bath dealers and designers this year. On this and the following three pages, *KBDN* looks at some of the most innovative kitchen and bath products from 2010.

# Product Trend Report



**16** | Mockett DP198 and DP199 glass pulls are available from Doug Mockett & Co. One pull is floating atop a single satin nickel base, while the other is resting on inset posts on either end.  
**Circle No. 170 on Product Card**



**17** | Available in seven finishes, Swarovski Crystal Pulls and Knobs by Alno come in three new designs and four sizes, including a 6" pull. Finishes include bronze, gold, polished antique, polished brass, polished chrome, polished nickel and satin nickel.  
**Circle No. 171 on Product Card**



**18** | Colonial Bronze has partnered with Edelman Leather to create The Tanner's Craft, a line of hardware and accessories. The collection includes 16 Edelman Leather colors in combination with 39 different metal finishes from Colonial Bronze.  
**Circle No. 172 on Product Card**



**19** | Each piece of hardware from the Glace Yar Stained Glass Design collection is made from stained glass. The hardware is handcrafted, making each piece unique.  
**Circle No. 173 on Product Card**



**20** | North River Mint has created and upgraded several designs in its collection of cabinet knobs, pulls and hooks. The compilation includes contemporary, wild animals, art deco geometrics, 'women of the twenties flappers' and Japanese.  
**Circle No. 174 on Product Card**

patinas to enhance the detail," remarks Nestor Rasi, sales manager, Fersa by Fontaine SRL in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Fersa's clients have also requested custom hardware with semiprecious stones, he reports.

Ramsland sees demand for Asian-influenced designs, in brushed satin nickel as well as transitional finishes. "Additionally we have been receiving requests for cabinet pulls that are significantly longer than what has been traditionally used on cabinets," he notes.

"Decorative hardware trends are the tales of two cities," Schaub observes. "Very ornate parts with exquisite details are quite popular at the high end, and these parts have two-tone finishes to show the highlighting within. Additionally, very simple parts with very contemporary looks are strong. These are often based on simple Italian designs, almost devoid of design, but with very thin profiles," he adds.

"Drawer pulls, in particular, have taken on many shapes recently, including squares, semi-circles and some hard-to-describe organic shapes," states Susan Gordon, president of Doug Mockett & Co. in Manhattan Beach, CA.

### THE FINISH LINE

With regard to finishes, the battle rages on between warm and cool.

"There is a continued interest in formal finishes such as polished chrome and polished nickel," notes Schaub.

Gordon reports that stainless steel, satin nickel and satin chrome are still very popular, "and these coordinate well with popular fixtures and appliances."

Polished nickel has gained in popularity over the

last several years, manufacturers agree. "This finish is warmer and typically a little less contemporary than polished chrome, and appears a little softer and more inviting," explains Sheets.

"Silver tones continue to be a strong color in today's designs," stresses Wolma.

On the warm side, oil-rubbed bronzes remain very popular with mainstream America, notes Schaub.

"We continue to see sales for warm finishes grow, particularly bronze tones such as Venetian bronze and oil-rubbed bronze," states Rogers.

Sheets reports, "There continues to be some evolution of oil-rubbed bronze finishes – from very dark to lighter shades. In many cases, the finishes are highlighted to reveal more of the copper or bronze undertones."

Gold tones are also beginning to emerge, evolving from brassy tones to rich, textured looks, notes Wolma.

"Finishes are being introduced that we have never seen before," remarks Dewald. "And, we're also seeing new applications for existing finishes, as well as the resurgence of a lesser finish to a more prominent trend status," he notes. "An example of this would be the bronze tones, which keep gaining momentum in popularity and variations – deep rich brown tones that complement many wood finishes," he offers.

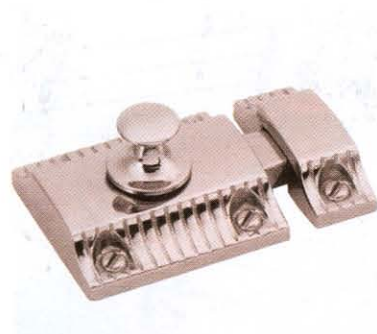
"Another would be a resurgence of classic finishes such as chrome, shown on a rustic-styled item, which produces very desirable effects," he continues. "Take a hammered mission knob, for example; if you finish it in reflective bright nickel or chrome, it creates a dramatic effect on all of the planes or facets of the



**21** | The SLS-ELAN from Sugatsune offers a combination of functions, including extra-light opening, multiple stop and soft closing.  
**Circle No. 175 on Product Card**



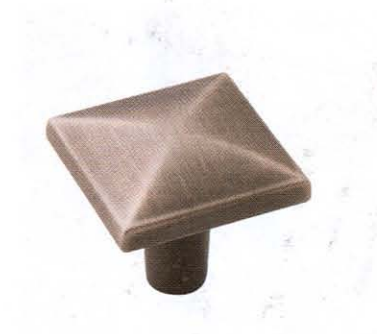
**22** | The Acanthus Appliance pull, which is shown here in an Antique Pewter finish, is the first in a series of pulls to round out the hardware offerings from Notting Hill Decorative Hardware. This pull complements the company's Queensway knob, pull and back plate.  
**Circle No. 176 on Product Card**



**23** | Inspired by the designs of the early 1900s, the Vintage Kitchen collection by Belwith Products includes one knob, a cup pull and a functional latch. Finishes include bright nickel and black iron.  
**Circle No. 177 on Product Card**



**24** | Crafted of solid brass, the Legacy Distressed knobs and pulls from Atlas Homewares are inspired by the stately homes in the hills of Provence and Tuscany, Italy. Legacy Distressed is available in champagne, pewter, antique bronze and oil-rubbed bronze.  
**Circle No. 178 on Product Card**



**25** | The Extensity Collection from Amerock features modern lines and details. The hardware is available in three coordinating shapes and three finishes – satin nickel, oil-rubbed bronze and the new antique silver.  
**Circle No. 179 on Product Card**

### Stainless Steel Countertops

10. Simply put, stainless steel has a lot going for it. That is the sentiment of Greg Reed, national sales manager for **A-Line by Advance Tabco** in Edgewood, NJ, whose company offers commercial-quality stainless steel countertops constructed of 16-gauge stainless steel.

"I see this product growing more in the future. As soon as designers find more ways to introduce it with other products and other materials, it's going to grow," he states.

Another distinction, he notes, is that stainless steel appeals to green-conscious designers as it's 100-percent recyclable and reusable.

Available with a number of edge options, the tops can be manufactured with back- and side-splashes and finished sink bowls as well.

**Circle No. 205 on Product Card**



### Laminate Collection

13. 180fx laminate by **Formica Group** is created using advanced printing technology that captures the details of hand-selected granite slabs. The collection includes Blue Storm (shown), which is part of the Mascarello Series, as well as eight other best-selling granite colors.

**Circle No. 208 on Product Card**



### Walk-In Bath

14. Made of high-gloss acrylic, the **American Standard 5' Walk-In Bath** features deep soaking dimensions, as well as a low-entry walk-in door for easy access and a contoured chair-height seat. Built-in grab bars and textured tub floors contribute to stability.

**Circle No. 209 on Product Card**

### Decorative Hardware

9. The Hazenberg Collection of decorative hardware from **Jamestown Furniture Hardware** is crafted from solid brass.

"Consumers are still taking opportunities to upgrade kitchens and bathrooms, and one of the ways they do that is by replacing their hardware. People want looks that are affordable," notes Alison Churchill, president of the Jamestown, NY-based company.

Available in 16 handcrafted finishes, the collection reflects transitional styling and is ergonomically designed, with the collection's designer being keenly aware of how each piece fits in the hand.

"People want something that is timeless, and they like options and the ability to customize," she concludes.

**Circle No. 204 on Product Card**



### Modern Hardware

11. The contemporary Modern Times collection from **Topex Hardware** features knobs and pulls in a stainless-steel-look or bright chrome with cut crystals. The 10 knobs are available in geometric shapes, while the seven pulls range from a wide, flat bench and bow shape to a profile and ruler influence.

**Circle No. 206 on Product Card**

### Three-Dimensional Hardware

12. **Metaltec Innovations** provides a variety of 3-D hardware for drawers and cabinets. Shown is the Turtle Drawer Pull, which features three baby turtles swimming. Finishes and patinas include Black Night, Damascus Steel, Medieval Pewter, Old World Bronze, Raw Matte and Raw Polished Penny – in addition to gold and nickel plating.

**Circle No. 207 on Product Card**

