

# By Steven Show

lean, warm and comfortable describe today's hottest kitchen trends, and this is particularly evident at the kitchen water station. The days of creating a full-blown, commercial-style workspace have taken a back seat to creating a more relaxed gathering place, and that means some of the pro-style elements have been toned down. However, that doesn't mean consumers are willing to sacrifice personality in their sink and faucet choices.

"People still want the feeling of a professional kitchen, but they now desire it in a softer statement in order to keep the space comfortable and warm, rather than [doing] an entire [pro-style] kitchen," says Tim Maicher, director of marketing for Blanco America, in Lumberton, NJ. "Maintaining warmth and personality in the kitchen is high on the design checklist for

today's consumers."

Maicher expects elements of the professional look to remain strong through 2011, and he believes that faucets and sinks that can deliver the combination of professional style, while working in transitional formats, will see growth.

Al DeGenova agrees that the trend toward truly commercial style/professional kitchens is waning. "Though there is still demand for the commercial-style products in stainless steel, the move is toward softening kitchens with more wood elements and other 'organic' features," says DeGenova, director of marketing communications for Grohe America, in Bloomingdale, IL.

Softening the kitchen naturally leads to cleaner and simpler designs, which keys into consumers' changing design preferences, he notes.

"From our perspective, and the perspective of our customers, the trend seems to be simple and clean," concurs Dan Sullivan, president of Affluence Seamless



2 | The Linden Pull-Out kitchen faucet with Multi-Flow from Delta Faucet provides water efficiency and performance. The Multi-Flow wand enables users to toggle between spray and stream functionality. It is available in Chrome, Brilliance Stainless and Venetian Bronze.

Circle No. 171 on Product Card



**3** Artisan Manufacturing offers two stainless steel farmhouse sinks. The traditional apron design offers 10" of depth with a tapered, arched front panel. The farmhouse sink is also offered in an undermount version.

Circle No. 172 on Product Card



4 | The Classic kitchen faucet line from Grohe America features a European two-handle faucet design with ergonomically shaped handles and a 90-degree rotation angle. The faucet is available in StarLight, a surface finish that is created through a special chrome-plating and galvanization technique.

Circle No. 173 on Product Card



5 | Part of the STEELART brand collection from BLANCO, the ARCON sink features a flowing arc and zero radius edge. It is available in six designer-friendly models that include a super single, 1-3/4" bowl and double bowl.

Circle No. 174 on Product Card



6 | Elkay's Aqua Divide sink offers the flexibility of a double bowl and large single bowl in one stainless steel sink. The lowered 4" Aqua Divide partition enables pot and pan handles or oversized items to extend over it. The sink is available in three configurations.

Circle No. 175 on Product Card



7 The sanitary, seamless sink bottom created by Affluence Seamless Sink includes a removable, cleanable disposer splash guard. The disposer and drain allow for a 90-second install, according to the company.

Circle No. 176 on Product Card



8 | The Saffron Collection of kitchen faucets from Jado features a soft contemporary style with a professional look. The stainless steel hose protector coil removes for ease of cleaning. The line includes culinary and single-lever models.

Circle No. 177 on Product Card



9 The new Bamboo Kitchen Sink from Lenova is crafted from fully matured Moso Bamboo created using a 13-step process. The sink is available in an apron-front design, equal double-bowl design with low-rise divider and undermount style.

Circle No. 178 on Product Card

Sink, in Cincinnati, OH. "People seem to be saying 'the less to look at, the better."

#### **OUANTITY VS. OUALITY**

While adding square footage to the kitchen may be trending downward, adding quality is on the rise. Kitchen sink and faucet manufacturers note that consumers are buying long-lasting, quality products that offer additional functionality or innovation beyond what's expected, to help them enjoy their homes.

For faucets, this may mean choosing a high-arc, pull-down faucet with a multi-function spray to make kitchen chores a little easier, according to Beth Wallick, manager of marketing communications for Moen, in North Olmsted, OH.

"Since people are spending more time dining and entertaining at home, they may choose some professional-style amenities, such as larger sinks, pot fillers or appliances that do more to enhance their lives," says Wallick. "Practical — not conspicuous — purchases are the trend."

High-quality, durable products that will stand the test of time are the key, according to Ann Rottinghaus, marketing communications manager for Elkay Manufacturing Co., in Oak Brook, IL.

While traditional stainless steel sinks continue to be popular, many designers are upscaling the island using sinks of the heavier 16-gauge quality as opposed to the thinner 18-gauge variety.

"Thicker is better," confirms Chuck Volga, v.p./ business development for Artisan Manufacturing Corp., in Newark, NJ. "The 16-gauge [material] is stronger and more dimensionally stable and, if insulated, it will also be quieter and retain the temperature. The price point plays a part in this selection, but not as strongly as the marriage of quality and design."

Quality and design are the most important elements today as clients look to personalize their kitchens, manufacturers agree.

"People will always demand products that combine quality, functionality and clean design," says Darryl Jones, director of U.S. sales for KWC America, in Norcross, GA. "However, in today's market, this does not limit designers' opportunities to personalize kitchens. There are plenty of products with all of these core attributes, so there is plenty of scope to accommodate a client's personal preference in terms of style."

One of those products is the pull-out faucet. Pull-out faucets offer the most flexibility at any sink (main sink, prep sink, etc) in terms of functionality and ease of use, manufacturers note.

"We're seeing more pull-out faucets coming in a wide range of design styles from contemporary to traditional," says DeGenova.

Indeed, in terms of kitchen faucets, the broader trend of pull-down faucets is becoming more popular as well. "We haven't seen the true professional, high-arch, spring-type that you would see in a restaurant, but pull-down faucets reflect functionality," says Kurt Backlund, product manager for Delta Faucet Co., in Indianapolis, IN. "They are sized more appropriately for residential settings."



Circle No. 179 on Product Card



11 | The T45-DF triple-lever faucet from MGS Designs features a built-in filtration system. It operates like a traditional faucet, but disperses

filtered and tap water from one spout due to two waterways. Three deck-mounted handles allow the user to switch from hot or cold tap water to filtered water.

Circle No. 180 on Product Card



12 | Brizo has enhanced its high-arc Venuto pull-down kitchen faucet with the inclusion of SmartTouch Technology and MagneDock magnetic docking technology. SmartTouch allows the user to start the flow of water with a touch anywhere on the faucet.

Circle No. 181 on Product Card



13 | Advance Tabco's A-Line Raised Deck countertop sinks are made of heavy-gauge stainless steel and have a satin finish. Features include a 2" raised deck that eliminates splash over and a 3" rear deck that will accommodate a large variety of faucet models.

Circle No. 182 on Product Card



14 | The Single Combo sink from Dawn Kitchen & Bath Products is accessorized with a removable plastic divider, creating a dual workspace for maximized functionality. The sink is made with 16-gauge 304 stainless steel.

Circle No. 183 on Product Card



15 | The Nouvelle Series of kitchen sinks from Houzer features a 25mm radius, giving them expanded capacity with deep well and straight walls. The series includes three designs: standard-sized Single Bowl, large-sized Single Bowl and 50/50 Double Bowl.

Circle No. 184 on Product Card





16 The Versailles Farmhouse Sink from Stone Forest features a polished interior and rim, as well as a raised carving on the front apron. It is available in Beige Granite, Papiro Cream Marble, Black Granite and Jerusalem Gold.

Circle No. 185 on Product Card



17 The Cantina Pro from Native Trails features outer dimensions measuring 24"x15"x7.5" and includes a fixed prep deck with ridges on a gently sloping surface to aid with draining. The entire sink is handcrafted of recycled copper and is available in two finishes.

Circle No. 186 on Product Card



18 | Rohl's Single Lever Single Hole Kitchen Faucet with Sidespray and corresponding Single Lever Single Hole Bar Faucet are part of the Michael Berman Collection, a grouping inspired by the skyscrapers and locomotives of the 1920s, '30s and '40s in America.

Circle No. 187 on Product Card



19 The Oliveri top mount sink from Tasman Sinkware provides a 3/4" drop ledge that keeps the water within the sink area. The 800 Series sink range of top mounts offers two and three basin models including the Maxi basin and Gourmet basin.

Circle No. 188 on Product Card

20 | The InSinkErator Chilled Water Tank and Faucet deliver chilled drinking water at 38 degrees F. The tank, which is air cooled, is designed to fit under the sink. The cold-only F-C1100 faucet is available in chrome and satin nickel finishes.

Circle No. 189 on Product Card



With kitchens increasingly being remodeled in the existing footprint, rather than going with a costlier expansion, designers are focusing on maximizing the functionality of the space — and that can mean having two, three or even four sinks/faucets in the kitchen, according to Ed Detgen, v.p./marketing for Danze, in Woodridge, IL.

As Detgen explains, everyone has a main sink (usually used for both food preparation and clean up), and that typically features a pull-down, pull-out or larger pre-rinse faucet. A second sink/faucet often appears in the island. "Homeowners love this feature for prepping veggies, etc. because they can stay engaged with their guests sitting around that area," says Detgen.

A third faucet is often placed nearby or on the room's perimeter in the form of a convenience/bar sink. "This is great for those who entertain a lot...no need to disrupt the chef in the core kitchen area," he says. "And finally, we continue to see more pot fillers installed at the stovetop (or on the island) as another way to maximize the functionality of the space."

Judd Lord, director of Industrial Design at Delta Faucet Co., agrees that there is a trend toward turning various areas within a single kitchen into more specific, task-oriented workspaces.

"The island is increasing in importance as a true food prep zone," says Lord. "As such, we hear more and more that larger sinks with standard kitchen faucets, cutting boards, special cutlery, etc., are being installed here."

In turn, Lord says these islands are being paired with

larger, deep-basin, farmhouse-style sinks in the more traditional location along the wall, turning this area into more of a cleanup station.

Houzer has seen increased applications where designers are using a small, single-kitchen sink (in the 21"x16" range) as the bar-prep or secondary sink. "In the past, this was usually reserved for high-end residences, but we are seeing more of it in mid-priced remodels, perhaps a by-product of the 'eat at home' mentality that is part of the new normal," says Ken Fey, v.p./sales & marketing for Houzer, in New Brunswick, NJ.

Another offshoot of the eat-at-home mentality is an increase in luxury home accessories for the kitchen – particularly those that are design savvy while also contributing to the health and well being of the homeowners. For example, Joseph Hutko, brand manager for Everpure, in Hanover Park, IL, notes that the Everpure PBS-400 drinking water systems are growing in popularity. He explains, "This system offers filtered water from a designer kitchen faucet at the pot filler, prep sink and other cooking stations."

### GETTING PERSONAL

Personalization is definitely a strong trend as well. Homeowners want their homes to be a reflection of their individuality and showcase their personal style in everything from the kitchen's wall color and appliances to their sink and faucet selection, according to Rottinghaus.

"The designs, colors, textures and surfaces of a home are controllable aspects in an increasingly



21 The PBS-400 Prep Sink and Wet Bar Water Filtration System from Everpure mounts under virtually any countertop and connects to existing faucets, providing 2.2 gallon per minute flow.

Circle No. 190 on Product Card



22 | The Planar Series of handfabricated Zero Radius Sinks from Franke Consumer Products features precise 90-degree angles. The undermount sinks are fashioned from stainless steel.

Circle No. 191 on Product Card



23 Gessi introduces the Natalia kitchen faucet line, a contemporary-styled faucet available in standard and color LED models. Finishes include polished chrome and satin nickel.

Circle No. 192 on Product Card



24 Dornbracht's pot filler, part of its Tara Ultra series, is a sculptural, deckmounted model base on the original Tara Classic line by Sieger Design. The fully articulated design extends completely, and swivels 360 degrees. It is available in three finishes.

Circle No. 193 on Product Card



25 | The Woodmere pull-down faucet from ShowHouse by Moen features a high-arc spout and S-shaped handle. ADA-compliant, the pull-down wand features three functions — pause/spray/stream — with a unique patented pause hutton

Circle No. 194 on Product Card





26 All of Hansgrohe's Axor faucets are compliant with California and Vermont's low-lead legislation, which limits the lead content of pipes, pipe fittings or plumbing fittings to convey or dispense water for cooking or drinking. Shown is the Citterio Kitchen Prep faucet.

Circle No. 205 on Product Card



27 Nantucket Sinks NS43 large rectangle kitchen sink is made from heavy 16-gauge 304 stainless steel. Available in 9"-, 10"- and 11"-deep models, it is polished to a fine brushed satin finish

Circle No. 196 on Product Card



**28** Kiwitap is a newly designed faucet from San-Ei Faucet Mfg. Co. Created by Toshiyuki Kita, the sculptural faucet blends with a variety of kitchen designs.

Circle No. 197 on Product Card

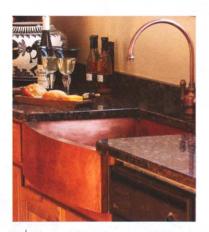


29 | The Corian Vaso Collection of kitchen sinks from DuPont feature a graceful shape inspired by European design. The sinks, which are stain-resistant, can be joined to a Corian countertop, notes the company.

Circle No. 198 on Product Card

**30** | Graff's Oscar kitchen faucet features a contemporary style in three different looks — solid chrome or combinations of either chrome and black or Steelnox and black. The deck-mounted faucet features a pull-down spray/stream configuration.

Circle No. 199 on Product



31 Diamond Spas can customize a copper kitchen sink to fit any shape or size. The living finish will change hues and maintain a look of antiquity over time. It is highly corrosive resistant, and is produced from 90% to 95% recycled copper.

Circle No. 200 on Product Card

uncontrolled world," adds Fey. "Individuals who may have once been indifferent to the design and layout of their kitchen are now taking extra care to make sure they get it right."

Fey continues to see an escalation in custom arrangements of Houzer's multi-sized bar-prep sinks used in a variety of designs, grouped together with other sized bar-prep sinks or in addition to the main sink. "We've increased our bar-prep offering within a four-year period from five designs to 24, simply to keep ahead of the curve," says Fey.

Elkay's Statement sink program provides homeowners with a made-to-order stainless steel sink with an etched pattern on the back wall or around the perimeter of the sink. Choosing from one of 12 applied patterns, homeowners can create more than 100 custom sink combinations, according to Rottinghaus.

"We want to make it easy for homeowners to convey their personal sense of style in their kitchen. Whether it is a certain size, style or accessory or even a completely customized design, we try to provide a product solution for their home," says Rottinghaus.

Likewise, Rohl is seeing increased interest in personalization, and to meet this demand, Rohl's Integrated Faucet Filtration Collection featuring Triflow Technology offers 15 variations of kitchen faucets in five finishes. "The collection is available in both traditional and modern stylings and incorporates Swiss Katadyn filtration technology as well as the faucet's own dedicated channel for filtered water to prevent cross contamination, eliminating the need

for bottled water," explains Lou Rohl, COO/managing partner for Rohl, in Irvine, CA.

#### GREEN & EASY

Another hot trend revolves around simplifying the forms within the space, yet finishing them in warmer, more inviting colors and textures. This has the benefit of reducing visual clutter and providing easy-to-clean objects with clean lines.

Lord notes that using these warmer finishes and textures on faucets softens the often geometric forms. Conversely, contemporary, curvaceous objects are often placed in a kitchen where the overall room is very geometric in nature.

"These objects tend to act almost as jewelry for the space, bringing the entire room together," says Lord. "The objects are still clean lined, minimal and smooth, but are more organically inspired."

Warmer tones such as bronze finishes are gaining in popularity, manufacturers agree. "We are even seeing them on more contemporary and transitional designs, instead of just traditional faucets," says Backlund.

While stainless is still in high demand, the growth of color in the kitchen continues. "Stainless steel/satin nickel for faucets is still the number one finish, but color faucets will grow in popularity as consumers look to bring warmth into the kitchen," says Maicher.

Wallick agrees: "Looking to the future, we'll see golds – in a more brushed, subdued tone – emerge, and brushed bronze and Old World finishes will continue to gain in popularity."



32 Stainless steel undermount sinks from MHS Sinks are available in a wide selection of models, and are undercoated to aid in noise reduction and maintaining water temperature. The line is complemented with a full range of custom fit sink accessories.

Circle No. 201 on Product Card



33 | Julien has added to its J7 collection of kitchen sinks, which feature 7mm tight radius corners. Crafted from 16-gauge stainless steel, the sinks are offered in a range of sizes in single- or double-bowl configurations.

Circle No. 202 on Product Card



34 Strom Plumbing by Sign of the Crab presents this authentic reproduction of the original farmhouse drainboard sink. The 5" reproduction with cast iron and porcelain coating features a deeper sink than the original, with large drainboard area on both sides.

Circle No. 203 on Product Card



35 | The KWC Luna faucet features a modern cylindrical shape with 270-degree swivel spout and pull-out spray. The spray head has a 70cm telescopically extending hose, head-insulated handle and comes with KWC Jetclean technology.

Circle No. 204 on Product Card



36 Kohler's Vault family of fabricated stainless steel kitchen sinks can be installed as undermount or self-rim. The sinks utilize Silent Shield technology on the basin and walls of the sink, which reduces noise and vibration. They feature 9" basins and a lower-than-standard saddles, allowing for overflow.

Circle No. 195 on Product Card



37 THG USA's Primo Cuisine is a line of contemporary faucets that are hand cast in brass. Six faucet models include a single-lever mixer with handspray, swivel spout and a pull-down spray with two spray options.

Circle No. 206 on Product Card



**38** The 90-degree collection of kitchen faucets from Moen features a minimalist design with geometric, 90-degree angles. The collection features singlehole, single-mount faucets in both standard and pull-out models. It is available in two finishes.

Circle No. 207 on Product Card



**39** The Lansen Edge line from Karran USA features undermount stainless steel sinks that can be installed in both laminate and solid surface countertops completely seamlessly. The sinks offer optimal sound-deadening properties.

Circle No. 208 on Product Card

In some cases, the trend in faucets directly corresponds to the trend in appliances. "With the current trend of primary colored appliances, black and white faucet finishes have also started to resurface," says Jones.

However, even with those trends, stainless steel is still dominant.

"Stainless steel remains the undisputed champ as far as kitchen sink material is concerned," says Fey. "It's used for its high performance in hygiene, resilience to stains and inherent strength."

Stainless steel can also be fabricated in an almost an endless number of ways. "It is the material of choice for undermount sinks," says Jay Beaumont, product and operations manager for Lenova, in Chicago, IL.

Beaumont adds that Lenova is seeing growth in natural stone sinks as well. "It gives the kitchen more texture and makes an interesting focal point," he says.

Maicher agrees that stone sinks that coordinate with a wide variety of color options in countertops will certainly remain high in design consideration. "Blanco is expanding its selection of Silgranit II colors," he says. "The color hues are warm and neutral, matching today's popular countertop finishes/elements."

Fireclay is another very popular sink material due to its authentic, sustainable nature. "Fireclay is lead free and completely recyclable, yet incredibly durable," says Rohl. "Our fireclay sinks feature robust fireclay material, which is acid-, alkali- and scratch-resistant, and created to stand up to tough daily usage."

#### **GREEN SCENE**

As consumers become increasingly aware of environmentally responsible product options for the kitchen, these greener products have seen increased demand. Sinks made of recycled (or recyclable) material, water-saving faucets and water-filtration systems are all the rage right now, and most manufacturers expect the trend will only grow stronger in the future.

"Kitchen faucets that save water and energy, with temperature limitation cartridges to limit the flow of hot water, for example, are in high demand," confirms Jones.

Products such as Moen's Eco-Performance kitchen faucets allow users to easily switch between three water-flow settings, Wallick notes. For everyday tasks that require a constant, yet low-water flow, such as washing dishes or preparing foods, homeowners can choose the ecoperformance standard or aerated spray modes.

"These settings provide a reduced flow rate of 1.5 gallons per minute (gpm), which translates to up to a 32 percent water savings," reports Wallick.

For tasks that require a set amount of water, such as filling a pot or pitcher, Wallick says users can bring the flow back to the standard 2.2 gpm rate with the touch of a button.

New technology also plays a role in conserving water. Delta Faucet's Touch2O Technology allows the user to turn the water on and off by simply touching anywhere on the spout or handle.

"We know through research that people tend to leave the water running during tasks such as washing the dishes," says Backlund. "The Touch2O Technology makes it easier to turn the water off between dishes, maintaining a consistent temperature." The idea is that the technology's unique functionality may actually encourage the practice of conserving water.

As for sinks, manufacturers are doing their part to answer the call for sustainable products. Elkay's metal sinks are made from recycled materials whenever possible and, like all stainless steel sinks, are also 100 percent recyclable.

"Our residential and commercial stainless steel sinks are constructed of approximately 80 percent recycled content and the residential's antique copper hammered sinks and cast brass Asana vessels are handcrafted from 100 percent recycled content," reports Rottinghaus.

Houzer's stainless steel sinks have an average of 60 percent recycled content, according to Fey, even though they use a proprietary, premium mix of T304 stainless steel.

Beaumont says Lenova went as far as to take a renewable material like bamboo and design kitchen sinks that are "functional, attractive and environmentally friendly." **KBDN** 



40 Cinch stainless steel undercounter kitchen sinks from Sterling include design characteristics to ease challenges facing solid surface countertop fabricators, including: sink hole cuttings, faucet hole cutting and transportation and installation.

Circle No. 209 on Product Card



41 | The JSG Ocean Glass Kitchen Sink is made of Hard Roc Glass that is thermal shock resistant and can withstand fluctuations in temperature. The sink is available in undermount, drop-in and vessel designs.

Circle No. 210 on Product Card



42 The Quincy kitchen collection from Kallista includes a pull-down and deck-mounted bridge kitchen faucet, entertainment faucets, side spray and dispenser. The Quincy bridge faucet has an internal diverter and second water way.

Circle No. 211 on Product Card



43 Cifial USA's traditional-style Highlands Kitchen Faucet collection features an all-brass, ceramic-disc cartridge and is available in eight finishes including weathered and satin nickel.

Circle No. 212 on Product Card

# Tools, equipment & services for cabinet shops & fabricators



### Hardware Shows Shiny Side

In keeping with a growing interest in polished finishes, Schaub & Co. offers the Montcalm Solid Brass decorative hardware line. It is shown in polished nickel.

www.schaubandcompany.com Circle No. 226 on Product Card

# Steel Doors Are **Laser Engraved**

Lasertron's Tuxedo Collection of laserengraved cabinet doors includes designs with geometric stripes, retroinspired circles and curves, an understated linear motif and floral images. Constructed of stainless steel, the line is rust-proof and is available for standard and custom cabinets.

www.lasertron.com Circle No. 228 on Product Card





# Pulls Feature Distinctive Styling

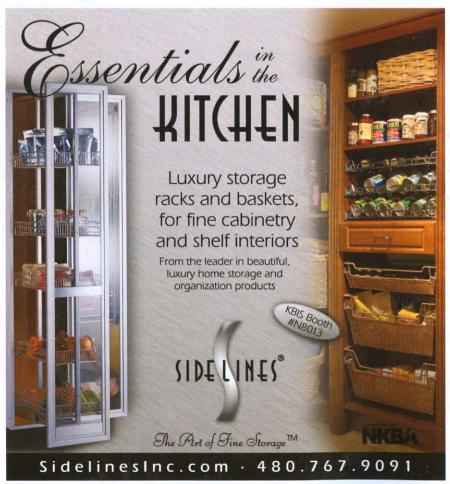
Valli & Valli has added six pieces to its V&V collection of cabinet pulls. Two of the pulls, from Valli Workshop, feature classic design. Pull A 2052, which is available in a satin nickel finish, has strong lines, which make the grip easy and structure light. Pull A 2053, offered in chrome-satin nickel and polish-satin nickel finishes, has a more solid and compact shape enhanced by a decorative double smoothing at the grip.

www.vallivalli-us.com Circle No. 227 on Product Card

# Collection Expands Selection of Drawer Slides

The MuV Soft-Close Undermount Series of drawer slides from Knape & Vogt features 10 slide lengths - the five industry standards, as well as five additional lengths that provide up to two additional inches of storage space. MuV slides come in two versions to fit standard drawer material up to 5/8" as well as 3/4" to support drawer box construction.

www.knapeandvogt.com Circle No. 229 on Product Card



Circle No. 45 on Product Card

# Stain Additions Provide Options

WalzCraft Industries has added four stain colors to its line of finishing options. Pairing these colors - Auburn, Midnight, Pearwood and Scarlet - with specific wood species can provide an approximate match to some of the most current melamine and laminate shades, according to the company.

www.walzcraft.com Circle No. 230 on Product Card

