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Five Hundred & Fifty



Up for Debate: Vessel Sinks

Has the popularity of vessel sinks run its course?

FOR the last several years, any bath or powder room with a countertop-seated wash basin was considered on-trend, but these sinks come with their own design issues. Shorter homeowners find the higher sinks a challenge to manage, the wrong faucet placement can cause undue splashing, and what kind of faucet works best anyway?

We took to Twitter to find out how designers feel about vessel sinks.

AGAINST

San Diego–based designer Brandon Smith (@dcoopsd) calls for the demise of vessel sinks. “I hate that it provides more crevices for gunk to hide,” he explains. Similarly, designer and HGTV Canada personality Meredith Heron (@meredithheron) cuttingly calls the category a “horrible, no-good fad,” while industry professional and self-professed design enthusiast Karlie

Kirk (@karlie_kirk) says that while she isn’t a trained designer, as a consumer she would put vessel sinks “on my to-replace list if one was in my house.”

FOR

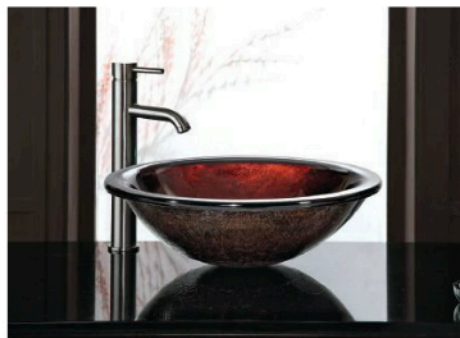
Architect Neal Pann (@npann) came to the defense of vessel sinks: “When used appropriately, they’re a nice feature [that works well] in a feature bathroom that isn’t used as often.”

Fad or not, vessel sinks haven’t had their last hurrah. Manufacturers continue to introduce new styles. Xylem’s newest offering, Ember (top), gives the illusion of glowing embers under glass.

Xylem | 866.395.8112 | xylem.biz

Pann also suggests a compromise: For the look of a vessel sink with a more modest profile, opt for a semi-recessed style, such as the Neox sink from Porcelanosa’s Noken (bottom).

Noken | noken.com

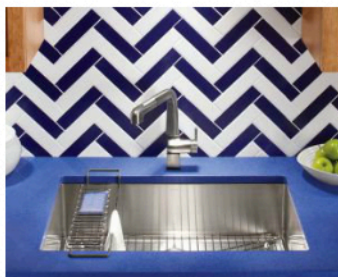


SPOTLIGHT: LAUNDRY ROOM



Utility Chic

The term “utility sink” conjures images of bulky, squared-off plastic tubs. Not so the undermount Stellar Laundry Sink. Constructed from surgical-grade stainless steel, with a brushed finish that’s easy to keep clean, the sink has a generous 23-by-17½-inch bowl that’s 12 inches deep. **Blanco | 888.668.6201 | blancoamerica.com**



Versatile Workhorse

Kohler has developed what it calls an intuitive kitchen sink designed to make clean-up more convenient. Five configurations of the stainless steel Strive sink are available, and each model comes with a selection of accessories. **Kohler | 800.456.4537 | kohler.com**



Hot Stone

For bold designs that are easy to clean, Pyrolave’s Lava stone is now available in integrated sinks and countertops. Fabrication techniques allow for completely customized designs with a palette of 16 glossy and 16 matte colors. **Pyrolave | 919.788.8953 | pyrolave.com**