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***High-flying Kelly Pipe:
Eleven decades and going strong***
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**OUR 39TH ANNUAL
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Linda Jennings' perspective

The hottest trends from K/BIS 2011

This year's Kitchen & Bath Industry Show may have come and gone, but the buzz created by these hot trends has not! While the Las Vegas show may have been smaller in size, these trends were bigger than ever and had attendees wanting to bring these looks into their own projects. Talk about inspiring! We saw innovation in materials. Unconventional designs. Cutting-edge aesthetics. Even lighting in unexpected places.

Unconventional glass

ThinkGlass led the way with stunning, illuminated glass countertops. WOW was the only way to describe these artistic pieces! They were defi-



nately stars of the show, grabbing the attention of passers-by and compelling them to draw near for a closer look. Many were surprised to learn that the countertops were made of glass. Granted, glass is probably not the first option that comes to mind when considering materials for countertops, but ThinkGlass is changing all that.

When most people think of glass, they think of the glass in their windows, which is indeed very fragile. But when glass is crafted to the proper thickness – a minimum of 1.5 inches – it becomes as hard as stone. Glass offers design options in terms of color, texture and lighting that far exceed anything that can be accomplished with stone, granite or marble.

ThinkGlass has quickly become a leader in the thermoforming industry by pioneering a versatile technique that allows the creation of new or repetitive textures at a very low molding cost. This process allows the creation of glass slabs without thickness constraints opening the door to all kinds of design possibilities.

One of the coolest products unveiled at the show was a stunning 4-inch countertop that looked like the blue ocean and actually glowed from

- Glass the new thing
- Sinks with style
- Details, details
- What lasers can do

within. The powerful LED lights embedded inside gave the glass countertop a radiance that cannot be duplicated with traditional stone. ThinkGlass offers a variety of light colors and even the ability to create a "light show" via remote control with special effects such as flashing and fading lights.

Glass is a very pure, sustainable material that has a luminescent quality even under natural sunlight. But glass countertops are about much more than just good looks. Because glass is a solid surface cast in a single piece, it has no cracks or seams, unlike natural stone. Its non-porous surface means there are no crevices to harbor harmful bacteria, mold or mildew, and glass requires no annual sealants. The extreme durability of glass countertops, along with their textured finish that hides fingerprints and smudges, makes them an ideal choice for high-traffic kitchen countertops.

Expressing style with a sink

When is a sink more than just a sink? When it makes a style statement, loud and clear. Lenova showcased its innovative side at K/BIS by exhibiting sinks made from six different materials. From contemporary stainless steel to luxurious copper and bronze, Lenova uses time-tested techniques to craft a line of sinks of unsurpassed quality.

Basking in more than its fair share of attention at the show was a new line of Travertine stone sinks featuring hidden drains. The SV-62 (shown) is a free-form bowl carved from a single piece of travertine into



an organic shape. A removable free-form stone hides the drain underneath. For more linear bathroom designs, the geometric SV-65 sink features sleek lines and clean angles, as well as a slotted, hidden drain system unique to Lenova. The new Travertine sinks are individually hand-crafted and take about 10 days to make.

Also making its debut in Vegas was a new glass vessel sink. Tempered for strength and designed to be beautiful, these elegant sinks are perfect for a

powder room or master suite. Lenova employs an 11-step process to create these works of art, available in clear, frosted, colored or textured glass.

Lenova's eco-friendly bamboo sink drew a crowd of its own at the show. Renewable materials and a hard-working design combine to create a surprisingly durable kitchen sink that is both practical and pretty. An apron-front design adds charm and character, while the generous interior proportions are sized to handle even the largest pots and pans.

No detail too small

Small details attract a lot of attention at events like K/BIS. Atlas Hardware and Ashley Norton picked up a number of new admirers for their very different collections of architectural hardware for the home.

Atlas Homewares brought some bling to the show with its fashion-inspired hardware, including the glamorous Legacy Crystal Collection. The must-have piece of the line is the exquisite Bracelet Pull, available in a variety of metallic finishes. Atlas also exhibited its latest in glass



knobs, many available in bright, spring-time colors with polished chrome or brass accents.

Ashley Norton showcased a more contemporary look with a new line of architectural hardware designed for those who appreciate an easy sophistication and uncluttered style. The new Urban Suite hardware combines sharp angles and lines with a smooth-as-satin finish for a Zen-like effect. Both



BY LINDA JENNINGS
K&B style trends

companies offer a variety of hardware options that can create a coordinated look throughout the whole house.

Amazing lasers

Lasertron pulled out all the stops with customization options for stainless steel cabinetry. The crowds at K/BIS were amazed at the idea of taking the cold uniformity of stainless steel and transforming it into a veritable artist's canvas. By using state-of-the-art technology, Lasertron is able to integrate brushed stainless steel with custom etched details in a crisp, mir-



rored finish. They can create custom designs for cabinet doors, trim, tiles or an entire backsplash – they can even reproduce any computer file, logo or photo. With a contemporary look and low-maintenance finish, Lasertron designs are perfect for both residential and commercial projects. ■

Linda Jennings is president of Jennings & Company – a public relations, advertising and marketing agency, specializing exclusively in the decorative plumbing and luxury hardware industry. Throughout a 20-year tenure, she has worked with the most significant editors and journalists in the consumer home market, identifying trends and providing newsworthy products. Based in Sarasota, Fla., her agency represents some of the most progressive manufacturers in the kitchen & bath industry. Jennings is a member of the DPHA (Decorative Plumbing & Hardware Association) and was recently appointed to their Editorial Advisory Committee.