



From deep tubs to shallow cabinets, these are the most imaginative products of the year



With the ever-escalating concern for the environment, you might expect to see a fair number of eco-conscious products among our annual roundup of the best, and this year's crop of KB Awards entries confirmed that trend. There were also a lot of really innovative ideas and gorgeously executed concepts that proved a product doesn't have to be green to be great. On the following pages, you'll find everything from a bamboo bathroom sink to a table whose height adjusts to suit people of varying heights. To judge this year's awards we asked designer Arthur Tanturri, of Chelsea Fine Custom Kitchens in New York, to join Leslie Plummer Clagett, editor, and Bill Partsch, associate editor, of Woman's Day Special Interest Publications' Kitchens & Baths.

WRITTEN BY BILL PARTSCH





HONORABLE MENTION ▲ Caroma, Caravelle dual-flush toilet

Australia is in a drought so severe that it is simple referred to as the "Big Dry." Residents have have to cope with water restrictions that are expected to remain in place for years. From such necessiwas born this dual-flush toilet, which offers the option of eliminating liquid wastes using just .8 of a gallon-just over three quarts. The standar 1.6-gallon flush is more efficient and clog-resist too, thanks to its 4-inch-wide trapway. With bot options, use averages less than a gallon per flui \$557 to \$635. 800-605-4218; www.caromausa.ca



carrier and dual-flush actuator.

888-387-2848; www.duravit.com.

HONORABLE MENTION ▼ MTI Whirlpools, Elise tub

Here's another graceful tub shape, with an emphasis on organic curves and no fussy deta It also happens to be made of solid surfacing. The manufacturer combines ground minerals with binding agents, then liquefies and molds the mixture until it hardens. The resulting tub is non-porous and thus easy to take care of. It comes in matte white. \$8,499. 800-783-8827; www.mtiwhirlpools.com.

WINNER

▲ Vitra, Istanbul Cylinder tub

Reduced to its absolute essence, this tub provides plenty of room to luxuriate in a beautiful no-nonsense form: a "perfect circle," says Tanturri, with straight sides and a gorgeous scooped bowl. The diameter is 63 inches, and the tub is available in white or with a subtle silver pattern. \$7,400. 877-658-4872; www.vitra-usa.com.

