

K+B B

DESIGN + INNOVATION + LIFESTYLE

mountain view

a dream bath brings
the outdoors in

product innovators
a material world



Q & A

Matthew Quinn, DESIGN GALLERIA KITCHEN & BATH STUDIO

While growing up in Key West, FL, Matthew Quinn spent the summers of his childhood helping his father build new houses made from concrete. Quinn and his father, who worked as an elementary school principal, would live in each completed home until they finished building the next one the following summer. "The knowledge I gained from actually constructing a home has been invaluable," Quinn said. "In my adult life, living in a house for more than a year has been quite strange." Today, Quinn, principal of Atlanta-based Design Galleria Kitchen & Bath Studio,

applies this knowledge to creating top-of-the-line kitchens and baths in homes located in Georgia and across the United States. The founder of the Matthew Quinn Collection, a new showroom concept for luxury kitchen, bath and architectural hardware, he has received numerous design awards, including first place in the National Sub-Zero/Wolf Kitchen Design Competition, and is one of five members on the International Design Council for Sub-Zero/Wolf. Currently, he is developing a book on kitchen design and remodeling.

What is the most intriguing aspect of your job?

How a great design can completely change a family's dynamics. Design can allow them to spend more time together, save time and money, eat healthier, be safer, etc. I also love the experience of watching a thought materialize into a product or space. I love that my designs can translate to the most amazing projects.

What "words of wisdom" can/do you share with others?

Stop talking and listen. Never sacrifice quality over quantity. Learn how to light a room well. Fill what's empty and empty what's full.

What's the biggest misconception about what you do?

That design is all fun and there are no real business decisions being made, and designers work very little and make lots of money.

What are some of the proudest experiences in your career?

Winning first place in the National Sub-Zero/Wolf Kitchen Design competition at age 32. Launching my tub and sink designs for MTI Whirlpools at this year's KBIS. Running an international design firm that provides for and supports 35 families.

What is the best thing that has happened to the design profession in the past five years?

Manufacturers now understand the power and value of a designer and have celebrated these relationships to further their brand and market share. In general, the philosophy of design is more understood by most Americans because of these relationships.

Who do you consider to be the most inspirational designers?

I am always attracted to the eccentric and avant-garde designers who have changed the definition of beauty, luxury and classicism: Philippe Starck, Frank Gehry, Dolce and Gabbana, Santiago Calatrava...

What is your favorite product that you've designed?

My Intarcia tub for MTI Whirlpools is not only functional and comfortable, but I love how it can be customized to look perfect in a traditional or modern interior.

Is designing a kitchen or bath product different from designing other types of products? How?

Kitchen and bath products have to be more practical and utilitarian than some other household items; but then what is the point of designing a product that has no apparent function? Kitchen and bath products certainly have more exposure to the elements and are used more often than products designed for use in the living room. I have always been a form follows function kind of designer.

If you could change one thing about your last project, what would it be?

I wish I could have successfully convinced my client to wait the extra three weeks for the "perfect" slab of marble for her countertops.

What's the coolest thing you ever put in one of your projects?

I like to think of myself as the 007 of kitchen design. I love concealing appliances, putting ovens on lifts and making hoods retract into walls and ceilings and cooktops and sinks disappear into islands.

Do you have a signature style? Personal design philosophy?

Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication.

What are some issues that you're passionate about?

In everything I do, I always strive for being the best. I work tirelessly to find the best solution within the best design. I have learned the value of a dollar and take spending my clients' money wisely very seriously. ■

—Matthew Quinn

Company	Page
Agape	27
Alape	30
Altmans	41
Amari	41
Amba Products	28
Americh	58
Arizona Tile	41
Armstrong Cabinet Products	16, 17
Bertazzoni	30
Bisazza	58
Blanco	25
Broan-Nutone	25
Burgbad	27
CaesarStone	37, 58
Ceramiche di Romagna SpA	46
Cikel America	28
Concreteworks	7
Cosentino	30
Delta	25
Disegno Marmo S.r.l.	48
Dornbracht	37
Duravit	27
Duropal GmbH	48
Fagor	8
Fanimation	28
Fauxworks Professional Painting	41
Flextherm	58
Fluid	32
Fractured Earth	41
GE	8
Glidden	8

Company	Page
Grohe	41
Häfele	16, 17
Hampstead Lighting	41
Hirsch Glass	28
Hydro Systems Ovation	41
Jacla	24
Jenn-Air	20
Kohler	8, 22, 24, 27, 41
MAAX Collection	26
Meyda Custom Lighting	32
Miele	37, 58
Mosáico Glesenmanufaktur OHG	44
MTI Whirlpools	34
Poggenpohl	17
Porcelanosa	46
Rev-A-Shelf	16, 17
Rings Of Wood	41
Robern	22
Seclay	44
Sharp	37
SieMatic	17
Snaidero	37
Sub-Zero	34, 37
TOTO USA	22
Valli & Valli	8
Varenna	17
Viking	32, 37
Whirlpool	20
Wolf	34, 37

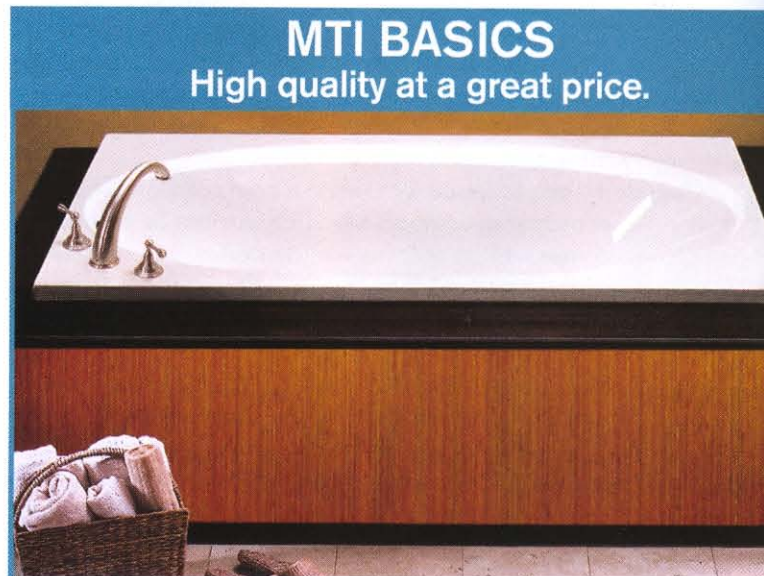
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Ad Index

Advertiser	Page	Circle No.
Acoustic Ceiling Products	32	112
Amerock	6	130
Artos	56	331
California Faucets	14	194
Cosentino	2-3	8
Dawn Kitchen and Bath Products, Inc.	54	322
Doors & Drawers	54	325
Elmira Stove Works	25	17
Fairmont Designs	39	174
IKEA	8-9	151
Independent Living USA	35	159
JSI Cabinetry	23	119
Karran	59	16
KBIS 2010	43	N/A
Kohler Company	C4	133
Kraus	50	179
Lander Distributors Corp.	54	323
Liebherr	13	180
MTI Whirlpools	57	43
National Kitchen & Bath Association	47	51
Nice Knobs	55	327
Outwater Plastics Industries, Inc.	54	321
Palmer Industries	55	328
Perlick	33	103
Picture It In Color	56	330
Prokitchen	31	134
Rev-A-Shelf	19	69
Safety Tubs	15	59
Samsung Staron Surfaces	45	24
Schott North America	29	130
Sonoma Forge	12	118
Sugatsune	10, 30	178
The Shadowlight Group	54	324
Todl.com	49	N/A
TOTO USA	11	80
Vent-A-Hood	4-5	37
Vroom	55	326
WOW Toilet	21	198
Zehnder America	55	329

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