Top 100 Contractors

Diversification & flexibility define Denver’s RK Mechanical

Piping challenges met at Portland, Ore.

Federal building
COVER STORY
Colorado dreamin’
No. 22 on the Top 100 Contractors Listing, RK Mechanical began 49 years ago in Nebraska and now is one of the most innovative, forward-thinking mechanical contractors in Colorado with a global reputation for excellence and bases its success on solid, advantageous relationships among customers, suppliers and employees.

On the cover: Ralph L. Carr Justice Center, Denver

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In step with style: provocative tangerine tango

BY LINDA JENNINGS, SHOWROOM SPECIALIST

Uplifting and energizing, it’s no surprise that kitchen and bath showrooms and the design community as a whole are quickly embracing Tangerine Tango, Pantone’s 2012 Color of the Year. According to a report released by the Associated Press, “The world doesn’t need more gray, and the blues are covered, too. What consumer products need is a jolt, a shot of energy and boldness, all of which comes from Tangerine Tango, the reddish-orange hue that Pantone announced as its top color for 2012.”

Over the past several years, orange has grown in popularity and acceptance among designers and consumers. A provocative attention-getter, Tangerine Tango is appealing in not only fashion and home décor but its also making its way into luxury kitchens and baths.

“Color can be a mood lifter, which is why we chose Tangerine Tango,” says Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute. “We thought that would be the perfect color, one that will get people’s attention.”

Sophisticated but at the same time dramatic and seductive, Tangerine Tango is already appearing in plumbing and decorative hardware showrooms as well as high-end homes and even hotels. Victoria + Albert’s freestanding tubs, while regal in white, become fabulously glamorous when painted in this luscious color. The freestanding tub has always been the centerpiece of the bath, and for today’s consumer looking to add vibrant style, Victoria + Albert’s tubs allow custom painting of their exteriors. The tubs are made from eco-friendly Englishcast®, having a smooth exterior surface easy to decorate using either oil or water based paints. And when it comes to custom decorating Tangerine Tango is hands-down this year’s color of choice.

Pyrolobe countertop surfaces can be ordered in similar radiant sunset shades, adding impact and exotic flair to any décor. From residential and commercial kitchens to bathrooms, tabletops, swimming pools, fireplace facades and outdoor living spaces, the glazed lava stone surfaces are perfectly at home in contemporary or traditional settings.

While the striking good looks of Pyrolobe speak for themselves, the engineering process goes deep beneath the surface. Volvic lava stone is extracted from the heart of volcanic craters in Auvergne, France. Blocks of stone are mined and then cut into slabs, imbued with gloriously-hued enamels and fired at temperatures exceeding 1000° C. The finished masterpiece can withstand almost anything – high temperatures, acids, corrosive products – making these surfaces as durable as they are visually captivating.

Orange-hued patterns are also capturing attention, particularly in unlikely spaces. KOHLER’s Ipanema bathroom sink features oversized patterns and mini-prints in vivid, contrasting colors, pieced together eclectically, taking inspiration from some of the most hip fashion trends of today. Part of the Top Art Collection and named for the popular beach in Rio de Janeiro, the Ipanema infuses both positive energy and playfulness into its surroundings and naturally lends itself to coordinating orange accessories.

For a pop of color in the bath, Decolav’s intensely vivid 2806 Magma Lavatory Sink from their Incandescence Collection does not disappoint. Crafted from resin, this designer lavatory is not only durable, but extremely easy to care for. The uniqueness of this sink is its ability to be used as both an above counter vessel or a semi-recessed lavatory, due to its gently sloping sides. It’s sure to add a touch of excitement.

Tangerine Tango looks great on tile, too and can be used on walls or floors in bathrooms, kitchens, living rooms, hallways and almost any other living space you can think of. Go lux with Italian tiles; choose patterns to accent and solids for larger projects. The beauty of handmade Italian tile is unmistakable and even more mesmerizing when created in such a spirited color.

For a quick Tangerine Tango fix, Atlas Homewares offers its vibrant Indochine series of knobs and pulls. On cabinetry...
and furniture that needs a boost, there really is nothing quite like a squirt of tangerine. Whether you choose a one-inch cone, two-inch round knob, or five-inch pull, these shapes combined with color have attitude. Inexpensive and easy to install, they add budget-friendly, instant, high-voltage style.

‘I love this color because it romances the consumer... I see hot summer nights, playful encounters in the town piazza, and retro fashion at its liveliest, says Adrienne Morea, CEO and Creative Director of Atlas Homewares. “Dull, boring or uninteresting consumers need not apply!”

Aquabrass’ Lady Chef kitchen faucet adds a jolt of color to the kitchen with its orange retro colored spirals. The professional pull down spray kitchen faucet will give you motivation to host dinner parties as an excuse to show it off!

Every room in the home can get a jolt of energy by incorporating a splash of Pantone’s new Tangerine Tango 2012 color of the year. The best way to use this TANGERINE color trend is to introduce just a small accent – like a knob on a bedside cabinet; pillows on a sofa; a fabulous orange-isch red serving bowl on the center of the dining room table with matching napkins; or even tangerine colored soaps in the bathroom. This also is a great time to bring out your vintage Fiesta Ware... An orange plate and cup for the table or an orange mixing bowl on the kitchen counter will bring this classic dinnerware into the current. For those a bit more daring, experiment with painting one wall tangerine for a drama point. And for those who have a passion for color, go bolder with an orange-painted claw foot tub in the bath or an orange countertop in the kitchen. This year, it’s all about color and creating a point of drama, and kitchen and bath showrooms need to gear up for this emerging color trend.”

‘Tangerine Tango takes us boldly into the new year with confidence. Eisemann perhaps put it best when she said, “There’s the element of encouragement with orange, it’s building on the ideas of courage and action, that we want to move on to better things.” It’s definitely time to Tango!'