



Find us online
twitter.com/phcnews
facebook.com/PhcNews

phcnews.com

MECHANICAL CONTRACTING

Top 100 Listing
 p 28

HYDRONICS

Tankless Water Heaters
 p 44

KITCHEN + BATH

Color Trends
 p 56

phc

plumbing + hydronic contractor

news



Top 100 Contractors

Diversification & flexibility define Denver's RK Mechanical
 p 26



Scan with your smart phone or visit online at qr.qg.com/HZLLJd to renew your subscription to *Phc News* today!

april 2012 Vol 12 | No 4

Piping challenges met at Portland, Ore. Federal building

p 32



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. **p 26**

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

www.phcnews.com



MECHANICAL CONTRACTING

- 20 Morris Beschloss**
Independent businesses spur economy while building boomlet in rental residential adds energy
- 26 Top 100 Contractors**
- 32 Piping renovation**
38-year-old Portland Federal building feels its age, gets total pipe upgrade
- 34 I feel the Earth move...**
Earthquakes can devastate piping systems, but grooved fittings withstand destructive tremors
- 36 Enchantment in Santa Fe**
New Mexico father-son HVAC success story

HYDRONICS

- 40 Dan Foley**
Online tools you can use
- 44 Tankless product report**

PLUMBING

- 48 Richard DiToma**
Don't be the cheapest plumber!
- 52 Touch-free tech**
Patrons demand more sanitary fixtures in public restrooms; here's the lowdown on touch-free

KITCHEN + BATH

- 56 Linda Jennings**
Color trends — tangerine tango
- 60 Peter Schor**
Accentuate the positive; and see you at K/BIS!

GREEN SYSTEMS

- 64 Bristol Stickney**
You can install an excessive number of solar collectors; so how many are too many?
- 68 Green goes to school**
Grad students, architectural guru apply holistic methods to KU's R&D center

WHEN YOU COULD DO THIS!

T-Flow Ball
Compact Design

Reversible handle directs flow into the hi-flow hose drain from either side of the ball

Normal Handle Open Position
Normal Handle Closed Position
Reversed Handle Open Position
Reversed Handle Closed Position

PRO-PAL SERIES

UNION BALL DRAIN

NEW DESIGN: NOW INCLUDES UNION DRAIN BALL FUNCTIONALITY

Webstone
VALVE INNOVATION

Learn more:
www.webstonevalves.com/pro-pal
(800) 225-9529

GUARANTEED FOR LIFE

| COLOR TRENDS 2012 |

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



Decolav's vivid 2806 resin Magma Lavatory Sink from the Incandescence™ Collection can be used as both an above counter vessel or a semi-recessed lavatory.

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.

Pyrolave 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 Pyrolave 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.

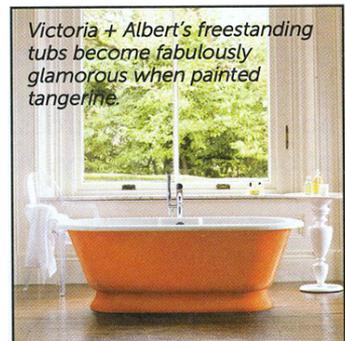
For a pop of color in the bath, Decolav's intensely vivid 2806 Magma Lavatory Sink from their Incandescence™ Collection does not disappoint. Crafted from resin, this designer lavatory is not only durable, but extremely easy to care for. The uniqueness of this sink is its ability to be used as both an 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 Homeware offers its vibrant Indochine series of knobs and pulls. On cabinetry



Glazed lava Pyrolave countertop surfaces can be ordered in radiant sunset shades and are at home in contemporary or traditional settings.



Victoria + Albert's freestanding tubs become fabulously glamorous when painted tangerine.

KITCHEN + BATH ➤ Continued from p 56

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



Atlas Homeware's vibrant Indochine series of knobs and pulls add a touch of tangerine.

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!"

Aquabraxs' 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-ish 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

Get the Look!

For more info on the trends mentioned here go to:

Atlas Homewares
800-799-6755
www.atlashomewares.com

Pyrolave USA
919-788-8953
www.pyrolave.com

Victoria + Albert
800-421-7189
www.vandabaths.com

Decolav
561-274-2110
www.decolav.com

Aquabraxs
514-381-4141
www.aquabraxs.com

emerging color trend."

Tangerine Tango takes us boldly into the new year with confidence. Eismann 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! ●

NEW

NAVIGATOR

S59-4016 Series with 1/2"-3/4" Connections
15 GPM Capacity

S59-4000A with 3/8"-1/2" Compression Fittings
5.5 GPM Capacity

BIM/REVIT files available for all Bradley TMVs – see website for details!

AVAILABILITY DURABILITY ABILITY

Bradley's Navigator® point-of-use valves mean easy set-up and start-up, a single valve able to accommodate multiple fixtures and compliant with current and future lead-free plumbing laws. Navigator valves are the perfect protection for homes, schools, hospitals or other applications where temperature regulation is a must. ASSE and cUPC certified.

Bradley 800.BRADLEY bradleycorp.com