

THE RETAIL observer

DECEMBER 2021 Vol. 32, Issue 12

AN EYE ON THE INDUSTRY SINCE 1970

NKBA
NKBA NAMES ITS
THIRTY
UNDER 30
CLASS OF 2021

NeoCon
Reuniting at
NeoCon 2021
Buzzing Three Days
Invigorate Industry

DPHA
DPHA ANNOUNCES
2021 POTY
AWARD WINNERS



Printed on Recycled Paper
10% Post Consumer



Scan for Mobile

2764 N. Green Valley Pkwy, Suite 508
Henderson, NV 89014-2121

INDUSTRY [NEWS]

DECEMBER



AN INNOVATIVE SOLID-SURFACE SOLUTION FOR BATHING FIXTURES FROM MTI

MTI Baths is proud to unveil an amazing new material to create their award-winning baths and shower bases. Introducing DoloMatte™, a cutting-edge true solid-surface material that is luxuriously beautiful, incredibly strong and velvety-soft to the touch. This incredible new material is available on Designer Collection freestanding tubs and low-profile showerbases. With an exquisite matte finish and inviting tactile experience, DoloMatte opens exciting new doors of design possibility.

MTI's DoloMatte begins as a thick, American-made solid-surface slab of specialty polymer blended with ground minerals that is consistent in color and property. After a unique preparation process, it is thermoformed with a mold, then enhanced through additional processes, including hand-finishing. While immediately notable for its exquisite matte finish and oh-so-soft surface, the appeal of this new American-made material goes much deeper. The solid surface is durable, impact/shock-resistant and extremely scratch-and stain-resistant. The non-porous white surface is easy to clean and is resistant to mold, mildew and UV damage.

DoloMatte joins other materials offered by MTI for bath fixtures: its signature Sculpture Stone®, Mineral Composite



and Enhanced Acrylic CXL™, giving consumers and designers the broadest selection of materials to meet their needs and designs. And all are made in the USA. In fact, MTI partnered with American manufacturer Aristech in the development of the solid-surface slab used in the creation of DoloMatte products. Aristech is the parent company of Avonite®, a leader in solid-surface products for more than 30 years. AVONITE® is a registered trademark of Aristech Surfaces LLC.

For more information about DoloMatte and all of MTI's innovative materials and products, visit www.mtibaths.com.



BERTAZZONI ANNOUNCES PROMOTION OF NICOLA BERTAZZONI TO CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



Bertazzoni, the family-owned Italian manufacturer of award-winning kitchen appliances, announces the promotion of Nicola Bertazzoni to chief operating officer.

As a sixth-generation family member, Mr. Bertazzoni has been with the company for 13 years, most recently serving as V.P. of global sales. Guided by his leadership, the company has more than doubled the size of its business, bolstered by expansions into international markets.

"The accelerated growth of the company has presented opportunities to introduce new roles, ensuring that we maintain success along our trajectory," said Paolo Bertazzoni, C.E.O. and fifth-generation family member. "We wish Nicola success in leading the company and all of us toward a cultural journey and continued growth."

In his new role, Mr. Bertazzoni will focus on business strategy implementation while working in conjunction with the C.E.O. and team of Executives on its development. The position will help the company take full advantage of all the opportunities that will continue Bertazzoni's industry leadership around the world.

For more information visit: www.bertazzoni.com, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram

acquabella

A RISING TIDE OF INSPIRED STYLE

Acquabella launches in the U.S. with the graceful sea-inspired Serena tub

Global leader Acquabella ushers in a new era of bathing with their latest freestanding tub creation. Luxuriate in perfect bliss with Serena, a softly contoured tub with graceful curves inspired by undulating ocean tides. This beautiful bath is a brilliant pairing of traditional elegance and modern innovation. Tides have long been associated with a sense of renewal and harmony. The Serena tub captures their mesmerizing essence by providing an extraordinary soaking experience that refreshes the body and restores the mind and spirit.

As an established European brand known for style innovation and exceptional quality, Acquabella presents the stunning Serena bathtub to make its debut in the North American market. Flowing lines and a graceful silhouette make Serena a certain standout among other freestanding models and a smart choice for today's fashion-forward bathrooms. Measuring a generous 67" x 29" x 32", Serena has been thoughtfully designed to cradle the bather in singular comfort.

The Serena bathtub is crafted from Acquabella's signature Dolotek® material, a superior mineral composite, resulting in a flawless finish that is silky smooth to the touch. Dolotek® offers the added benefit of providing an antibacterial surface that is easy to clean, amazingly durable and resistant to UV rays and thermal shock. The Serena tub is offered in a snow-white standard finish and includes options for a striking dual-tone look with pairings in brown, light grey, dark grey and black.

Infuse a sense of wonder and well-being into the bathroom with the Serena tub. For details about the Acquabella brand and exciting new product introductions, visit www.acquabella.us.





DPHA ANNOUNCES 2021 POTY AWARD WINNERS

THE WINNERS OF THE 2021 DPHA PRODUCT OF THE YEAR AWARDS WERE ANNOUNCED AT OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE AND PRODUCT SHOWCASE IN AUSTIN, TEXAS ON SEPTEMBER 24TH. HERE ARE ALL OF THE 2021 PRODUCT OF THE YEAR WINNERS AND HONORABLE MENTIONS.

Learn more about our winners and all of the products nominated by downloading this year's Product of the Year Guide.

A special note of thanks to our esteemed judges panel who gave their time and effort to make these very tough decisions for DPHA:

- Alena Capra – *Alena Capra Designs*
- Mary Jo Peterson – *Mary Jo Peterson Design*
- Alissa Ponchione – *Hospitality Design Magazine*
 - Eliot Sefrin – *Editor Emeritus of KBDN*
 - Molly Switzer – *Molly Switzer Designs*

PLUMBING PRODUCT OF THE YEAR - FIXTURE



MTI BATHS: BOWIE

Featuring a striking new exterior detailing never seen before, the freestanding Bowie tub adds unexpected texture to the bathroom. Immediately eye-catching for its intricate pleating detail, this tub was developed in collaboration with Source, a prestigious design firm. The Bowie measures 70" x 35 x 22", providing comfortable space for two bathers. The Bowie is handcrafted from MTI's SculptureStone material that is primarily an organic mixture of ground natural minerals and high-performance resins that gives the look and feel of molded stone.

HONORABLE MENTION - NATIVE TRAILS: AMARA

Handcrafted by Italian artisans, Native Trails' Amara fireclay sinks feature a stunning rectangular profile and are glazed in 24k gold, platinum and silver in honor of the company's silver anniversary. The sinks champion age-old artisan traditions to create products for the modern world. Amara offers unique style and craftsmanship, built to endure the test of time as an heirloom for generations. Its versatile design allows it to be installed as a drop-in or an undermount to accommodate a range of color schemes and design aesthetics

PLUMBING PRODUCT OF THE YEAR - WATER DELIVERY



BRIZO: FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT SINGLE-FUNCTION RAINCAN SHOWERHEAD

The Single-Function Raincan Showerhead with Integrated Lighting draws on Wright's philosophy of organic architecture, showcasing distinct design and unparalleled craftsmanship while daring to break with tradition. While seeking to challenge convention, the Raincan Showerhead with Integrated Lighting features the distinctive rush of the Canopy Spray, which activates a built-in light powered by a hydrogenator for a dramatic effect and showcases the true nature of water when elements come together. The delicate yet refreshing flow of the Canopy Spray releases thousands of fine droplets, creating a luxurious downpour that leaves a light tingling sensation. The showerhead can also be surface mounted to the ceiling or pendant mounted on a shower arm – further challenging convention and echoing the aesthetic of Frank Lloyd Wright. Additionally, the showerhead's metal finish options bring an elemental tone, and when paired with the natural beauty of wood, make for a very warm, welcoming, intuitive palette.

HONORABLE MENTION - CALIFORNIA FAUCETS: CORSANO CULINARY

Designed to give cooking enthusiasts that professional style look, the Corsano Culinary is available with an innovative new proprietary squeeze handle. Both ergonomic and visually captivating, the easy-to-use lever activates a powerful spray to tackle dirty dishes in no time. Simply squeeze the lever to unleash the vigorous spray and release it to return to an aerated stream. Available in 25+ artisan finishes, plus the industry-first ability to finish the coiled spring to match the rest of the faucet, the Corsano Culinary with Squeeze Handle gives maximum style and design flexibility to anyone seeking the professional styled kitchen faucet.

FURNITURE PRODUCT OF THE YEAR



STONE FOREST: ELEMENTAL CROSSBAR

The Elemental Crossbar is the only design in the industry that uses the locking collar system which affords the flexibility to customize each set-up to suit individual needs and preferences. The knurled locking collars support modular components at desired heights and the brass pipe legs give endless options. The collars are slipped over the legs for ease of installation and are locked in place with a simple set screw.

HONORABLE MENTION - AD WATERS: SIMAS AGILE

The AGILE wall-hung console is beautifully handcrafted in Italy and exhibits clean lines and squared-off edges that evoke both simplicity and purity. The wash basin is made of Italian porcelain, showcasing craftsmanship and cultural authenticity. Suitable for small spaces and for those seeking a minimalistic design, it is available in 8 colors.

ACCESSORY PRODUCT OF THE YEAR



STERLINGHAM: MARBLE HEATED TOWEL RAIL

As part of the popular Cascades Collection, Marble Rails feature a sleek, space-saving design that consumes less wall area than traditional warmers. The single rails may be hung alone or stacked and arranged in nearly any formation. Measuring nearly 24" long, the rails are cleverly installed with hidden wall mounts for a seamless look. They are offered in a selection of five distinctive marbles: Nero Marquina, Bardiglio Nuvolato, Bianco Carrara Venatino, Calacatta Gold Calo-Bett, and Giallo Sienna and are available in the brand's stunning lineup of sixteen modern finishes

HONORABLE MENTION - INFINITY DRAIN: NEXT DAY CUSTOM LINEAR DRAIN

Infinity Drain's Next Day Custom program eliminates costly and frustrating installation delays by offering custom-sized drains within a day. Next Day Custom Linear Drains are available in lengths up to 72" in two finishes, three grate styles, and for all installation waterproofing methods. Custom orders received by 10am ET ship the following day.

DOOR HARDWARE PRODUCT OF THE YEAR



ACCURATE LOCK & HARDWARE: SMARTENTRY SELF-LATCHING MORTISE LOCK FOR SLIDING & POCKET DOORS

The SL-SM9159E brings the convenience of smartphone locking control to space-saving sliding and pocket doors. Utilizing the leading smartphone-operated system for sliding door mortise locks, the SmartEntry combines mechanical expertise with cutting-edge technology. Paired with the SL9100 Self-Latching Mortise Lock, it is available with a variety of trim options including Sectional Trim (lever and rose), ADA Trim (lever and escutcheon) or Flush Pull Trim for Pocket Doors.