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KBB

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- What's New in Smart Home Design
- The Latest & Greatest in Outdoor Living



2023 Readers' Choice Awards Winners

KBB READERS' CHOICE AWARDS 2023 WINNERS

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN! For our 11th-annual Readers' Choice Competition, Kitchen & Bath Business magazine received more than 20,000 votes from our readers on their picks for the top kitchen and bath brands and manufacturers.

Readers chose their favorites based on three criteria overall: local availability, support from supplier/manufacturer and price point for their typical client budget, as well as category-specific criteria. Categories, which are listed alphabetically, cover all aspects of kitchen and bath design.

Throughout this issue of the magazine, you will learn more about our 2023 winners and what makes them stand out from their competition. The best of the best were chosen for a reason, so maybe you can even add a few new brands to your coveted go-to list.

— Chelsie Butler, Executive Editor, KBB

BATH ACCESSORIES

Atlas Homewares
Elements
Kohler Co.
Moen
Rev-A-Shelf
Top Knobs

Criteria: *Style/Design, Ability to Coordinate with Fixtures*

BATH CABINETS/VANITIES

Fairmont Designs
James Martin Vanities
Jeffrey Alexander
Kohler Co.
KraftMaid
MasterBrand Cabinets Inc.

Criteria: *Craftsmanship/Design/Style/Aesthetics, Door Styles/Finishes, Ability to Customize/Modify, Construction Quality*

BATH FAUCETS

Brizo
Delta Faucet
Grohe
Hansgrohe
Kohler Co.
Moen

Criteria: *Water Efficiency, Style/Aesthetics*

BATH FLOORING

Ann Sacks
Armstrong Flooring
Daltile
Emser Tile
Florida Tile

Criteria: *Style/Aesthetics, Durability*

BATH SINKS

American Standard
Duravit
Elkay Sinks + Faucets
Hardware Resources
Kohler Co.
TOTO USA Inc.

Criteria: *Style/Aesthetics, Durability*

BATH VENTILATION

BROAN
Delta Electronics
NuTone
Panasonic

Criteria: *Effectiveness, Noise Level*

BATH WALL COVERINGS

Ann Sacks
Daltile
Dekton by Cosentino
Emser Tile
Florida Tile

Criteria: *Style/Design/Aesthetics, Durability*

COOKING APPLIANCES

Bosch
GE
KitchenAid
Miele
Wolf

Criteria: *Energy Efficiency, Design/Style, Ease of Cleaning*

DECORATIVE HARDWARE

Amerock
Atlas Homewares
Elements
Jeffrey Alexander
Top Knobs

Criteria: *Style/Aesthetics, Ability to Coordinate with Fixtures*

DESIGN SOFTWARE

2020 Design
Autokitchen
Chief Architect
ProKitchen Software

Criteria: *ROI, Ease of Use, Graphic Visualization*

DISHWASHERS

Bosch
GE
KitchenAid
Miele
Whirlpool

Criteria: *Energy Efficiency, Integration into Cabinetry, Design/Style*

FUNCTIONAL HARDWARE

Blum
Häfele America Co.
Hardware Resources
Rev-A-Shelf
Richelieu

Criteria: *Style/Aesthetics*

KITCHEN ACCESSORIES

Blum
Häfele America Co.
Hardware Resources
Rev-A-Shelf
Richelieu

Criteria: *Style/Design, Organizational & Functional Ability,*

KITCHEN CABINETS

Crystal Cabinet Works Inc.
Fabuwood
IKEA
Kraftmaid
MasterBrand Cabinets Inc.
NorthPoint Cabinetry

Criteria: *Craftsmanship/Design/Style, Door Styles/Finishes, Ability to Customize/Modify, Construction Quality*

KITCHEN COUNTERTOPS

Caesarstone
Cambria
Daltile
Dekton by Cosentino
Silestone
Wilsonart

Criteria: *Stain & Heat Resistance, Style/Aesthetics*

KITCHEN FAUCETS

Brizo
Delta Faucet
Kohler Co.
Moen
ROHL

Criteria: *Water Efficiency, Style/Aesthetics/Finish*

KITCHEN FLOORING

Armstrong Flooring
Daltile
Dekton by Cosentino
Emser Tile
Marazzi USA

Criteria: *Style/Aesthetics, Durability*

KITCHEN SINKS

Blanco
Elkay Sinks + Faucets
Kohler Co.
Kraus USA
Ruvati

Criteria: *Installation Type, Stain Resistance/Durability, Configuration/Style/Aesthetics*

KITCHEN VENTILATION

Bosch
BROAN
Vent-A-Hood
Wolf
Zephyr

Criteria: *Effectiveness, Noise Level*

LAUNDRY

GE Appliances
LG
Maytag
Samsung
Whirlpool

Criteria: *Energy & Water Efficiency, Ability to Be Built-In*

LIGHTING

Häfele America Co.
Hudson Valley Lighting
Kichler
Task Lighting

Criteria: *Style*

REFRIGERATION APPLIANCES

GE
KitchenAid
LG
Sub-Zero
Whirlpool

Criteria: *Energy Efficiency, Integration into Cabinetry, Design/Style*

SHOWER SYSTEMS

American Standard
Brizo
Delta Faucet
Hansgrohe
Kohler Co.
Moen

Criteria: *Water Efficiency, Style/Aesthetics*

TOILETS

American Standard
Duravit
Gerber
Kohler Co.
TOTO USA Inc.

Criteria: *Water Efficiency, Style/Aesthetics*

TUBS & WHIRLPOOLS

American Standard
BainUltra
Jacuzzi Luxury Bath
Kohler Co.
MTI Baths

Criteria: *Style/Aesthetics*



Pitch-Perfect

A design team overcomes multiple complications to create a striking bathroom in a high-rise condo

WORKING WITH HIGH-END CLIENTS may be a designer's dream, allowing for sourcing top-of-the-line products and luxurious finishes, but these projects can also bring a requirement to make the improbable possible. Such was the case in an Allied Kitchen & Bath renovation of a primary bathroom in a high-rise above the Intercoastal Waterway in Florida.

The Fort Lauderdale-based remodeling firm was tasked with combining traditional elegance and clean lines to create a minimalistic retreat. The new bathroom features a timeless design with Calacatta-style porcelain and modern elements like wall-mounted vanities, thick quartz countertops and electric mirrors with integrated lighting.

"The clients wanted a modern feel," said Bill Feinberg, owner, Allied Kitchen & Bath. "They were looking for a sleek space inspired by their trav-

els around the world and visits to high-end hotels."

For a fresh start, the design team quickly removed the old-fashioned tub with deck and walled-in shower. But the goals of creating curbless his-and-hers showers and getting more than 24 large-format porcelain slabs up the elevator soon led to a few snags.

CHALLENGE #1 – FINDING THE TIME

Renovations in a condominium have inherent difficulties, compounded in this case by the homeowners' decision to live in the unit during the project. The condo regulations meant the team had limited hours to access the building and had to prep elevators and hallways each day. Working on holidays was off limits, and each person on the project had to check in daily, while all subcontractor licenses and insurance had to be on file.

ABOVE This bathroom includes two of everything and meets in the middle at a double-entrance his-and-hers shower with barrier-free entry. The result is spectacular, but getting there was a challenge.

"Sometimes I say to my designers, 'Why? Why do you want to make it difficult?'" said Bill Feinberg, owner, Allied Kitchen & Bath. "Here, we added curbless showers. It can sound easy when a client asks for it, but not when you are in a building that is not easy to work with."

By **CARRIE WHITNEY**

Additionally, there were numerous inspections, and the project was sometimes put on hold as the team waited for the inspector to give the approval that would let them move to the next phase. According to Feinberg, his firm must figure that into the cost on the front end.

Although the Allied Kitchen & Bath contract requires the building to use its own sprinkler company, making adjustments to the system can also cause a holdup.

"Sometimes you have to shut down a whole building to move one sprinkler," said Feinberg. "We have to arrange it in advance, including letting neighbors know the water will be shut off."

CHALLENGE #2 – CONDO CONSTRAINTS

Working in a condominium building usually means designers must execute within an already defined space, as walls and plumbing may be difficult or impossible to change.

"Certain things, we were stuck with," said Feinberg. "We couldn't move toilets. We could only move the tub a bit."

To get the sleek look the clients wanted, Allied Kitchen & Bath built a new tub deck with the porcelain and hid the plumbing without moving it. In the shower, they could not move drains. The team solved this problem through building up the floor by setting the porcelain in mud, so it would pitch down, and everything slopes to the drain that was existing.

"You need craftsmen for this," said Feinberg. "This isn't just a tile [installer]. You are talking perfection. From the door as you enter, the tile was laid to calculate the pitch to the shower."

CHALLENGE #3 – MATERIAL MADNESS

To create the timeless, modern retreat the clients wanted, Allied Kitchen & Bath chose Neolith slabs in a Calacatta style for all surfaces. Mimicking natural stone, the porcelain is lightweight, durable and easy to maintain, as well as simple for the fabricator to cut and install, at least in theory.

It took 35 8-foot slabs to cover the walls, floors, shower and tub deck. Because of the limited space available in the condo – during construction the rest of the unit was cordoned off with zip walls, as the clients lived in it – the slabs had to be cut offsite. The installer took measurements, cut the slabs at the shop and brought them to the project. When a piece did not fit, it had to be returned to the shop for trimming then brought back.

"There wasn't space to lay down a whole slab and cut it onsite," said Feinberg. "It took coordination and time to do all the slabs. We had to be careful moving them in the elevators and use proper padding and dollies."

Despite the reliability of the subcontractor, two slabs were cracked during installation – one in the shower as the team drilled faucet holes and another on the tub deck. The firm had to cover the significant cost to replace them. Thus, this ultimately successful project highlighted the importance of making good estimates.

"You have to really think about costs and what might happen when you are working on a job," said Feinberg. "Some projects don't turn out profitable, but at the end of the day, if the client loves us, that is what matters."

This stunning bathroom pleased these exacting condo clients enough that they have since brought the Allied Kitchen & Bath team back to renovate their kitchen. ●



TOP A wall-mounted vanity and sleek cabinetry are combined with electric mirrors with integrated lighting to bring a modern feel to the full backdrop of luxurious Calacatta-style porcelain surfaces.

ABOVE The location of the tub could not change, but the niche and deck provide space for exhibiting the homeowners' artwork. Indirect LED lighting was added above the tub and in the shower. Installing the porcelain slabs in this area proved difficult, and one was cracked during the process.

SOURCES: **DESIGNER:** Andrew Fishman, Allied Kitchen & Bath; **PHOTOGRAPHER:** Darryl Nobles, Dream Focus Photography ● **ACCESSORIES:** Kartners; **CABINETS & SINKS:** Vanico Mar-ohy; **FAUCETS:** Graff; **LIGHTING:** Hafela; **LINEAR CHANDELIER:** ET2 Lighting; **MIRRORS:** Electric Mirror; **SHOWER ENCLOSURE:** Custom by Allied Kitchen & Bath; **SHOWER FIXTURES:** Axor, Graff, Hansgrohe & Schluter; **SURFACES:** Neolith; **TOILETS:** TOTO; **TUB:** BainUltra

WHAT'S HOT EVERYWHERE ELSE

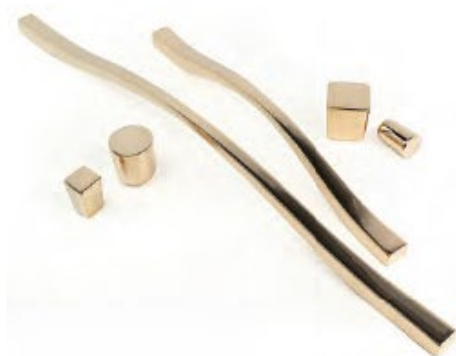
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2



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1

OSBORNE WOOD PRODUCTS has released 40 wooden moulding and trim profiles. Suitable for modern and traditional detailing, the versatile, finish-ready designs include light rail, crown moulding and panel and door applications. osbournewood.com

2

The Neoclassical Collection of door hardware by **NOSTALGIC WAREHOUSE** includes a long plate, knobs in brass or lead-free crystal and a coordinating deadbolt all decorated with a finely crafted egg-and-dart motif. In nine finishes, it coordinates with a full range of interior door and cabinet hardware. nostalgicwarehouse.com

3

Six inches taller than other **BLUESTAR** range hoods, the 36-inch Ridgeline hood fits 9-foot ceilings without requiring an additional duct cover. The hood's height ensures that it becomes a prominent feature in the kitchen. Strapping and rivets are included, as well as dimmable LED lighting. Available in six widths. bluestarcooking.com

4

BERENSON is adding a new finish – Rose Gold – to its recently launched Fluid and Mini collections of decorative hardware. This finish will be available in both pull lengths of Fluid and both knob designs and sizes of Mini. berensonhardware.com

5

One of 26 patterns in the new Pietre Incise Collection by **LITHOS DESIGN**, the Crystal panels add depth and texture to walls. Designed by Raffaello Galio, the carved stone modules are offered in two sizes, 60cm and 120cm. lithosdesign.com

6

Designed by Matteo Fumatto for **WALLPEPPER/ GROUP**, the Pettini di Mare pattern of super-scaled, abstracted scallop shells brings a fresh take on marine life to the walls. Available on eight materials, including wet-rated, outdoor-rated, acoustic, high-traffic and more. wallpeppergroup.com