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Kitchen & Bath design news



Top Products

KBDN looks at the 20 most-asked-about products
for 2011 as decided by reader requests

COVER STORY:

Great Designs Help
Firm Double Profits

Survey Looks at
Designers' Tech
Preferences

Simple Designs,
Superior Function
Mark Hardware

White River Names Contest Winners

Fayetteville, AR — White River, the Fayetteville, AR-based manufacturer of hardwood mouldings, wood carvings and related cabinet components, has named the winners of the company's "Well-Appointed Interior Design Competition for Millwork and Kitchen & Bath Design Professionals."

Selected from more than 50 entries, according to the company, were the following winners:

- In the Kitchen & Bath category, the Grand Prize was awarded to Melissa Jessup of BL Cabinetry, in Rural Hall, NC, for a kitchen remodel that featured White River's architectural woodcarvings and mouldings.

- In the Millwork category, the Grand Prize was awarded to Andrea D'Alessio, Jr. of D'Alessio Inspired Architectural Designs, in Bucks County, PA, for an interior project that showcased many of White River's signature mouldings and

Victoria + Albert Presents Award

Bath manufacturer Victoria + Albert presented the Victoria + Albert 'Best Showroom Display' award to Scott Hunt from O'Connor Sales. Hunt's Ravello Suite vignette at FIXTURES LIVING/SAN DIEGO (shown here) was tapped with the honor. The award was presented during this year's Victoria + Albert National Sales Meeting, held recently in Texas.



hand-carved friezes.

"Our winners entries exemplify how our products, when incorporated correctly, can transform any room into an interior of a homeowners dream," said Richard Enriquez, director of marketing for White River.

MIA Honored for Pair of Programs

Cleveland, OH — The Marble Institute of America's Accreditation and Stone Slab Handling Safety Programs have been honored with "Power of A" Silver Awards, the as-

sociation announced.

The awards, presented each year by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), recognize "the extraordinary contributions associations make to society year round by enriching lives, creating a competitive workforce, preparing society for the future, driving innovation and making a better world," the Cleveland, OH-based MIA said.

The MIA Accreditation Program and Stone Slab Handling Safety Program were both entered in the "Power to Create a Competitive Workforce" category of the awards competition, the MIA said.

The competitive workforce category recognizes programs that help individuals gain and apply new technical skills, as well as learn best practices for their profession, the trade association noted.

The MIA serves the natural dimension stone industry. Members include marble, granite, limestone, sandstone, and other natural stone producers and quarriers, fabricators, installers, distributors and contractors worldwide.



Shaker Collection

The enduring character of "Shaker" design is reflected in this charming vanity that offers a variety of storage opportunities. Match it with a choice of granite, marble, white & biscuit ceramic or engineered quartz tops to satisfy any decorative taste.



FAIRMONT
designs.

Furnishing Imagination

fairmontdesigns.com

Circle No. 11 on Product Card

REAM OF THE CROP

Reader requests determine the hottest new product picks for 2011.

Over the course of 2011, *KBDN* has highlighted a wide variety of the newest, most innovative products in the kitchen and bath market. From countertops and faucets to appliances and lighting, new products and technology have been abundant this year.

At the conclusion of each year, *KBDN* provides a review of the hottest, most interesting products – the most-asked-about items as selected by tallying reader requests throughout the year. In 2011, *KBDN* received more than 16,000 reader requests about newly introduced products to the market.

As in previous years, the 2011 list provides a mix of everything from eco-friendly countertops and appliances to lighting and Universal Design products. In fact, the “Top Ten” list includes products from more than seven different categories.

From the most-asked-about products list, it’s clear that Universal Design, energy-saving appliances and outdoor kitchen spaces are hot trends right now.

On this and the following three pages, *KBDN* looks at products that have captured the interest of kitchen and bath professionals in 2011.

For more about these and other products, visit www.ForResidentialPros.com.

Glass Countertops

1. “People seem to be looking for something new, something fresh,” says Bruno Rodriguez, director of business development at **ThinkGlass**. “Our glass countertops provide a uniqueness and ‘wow’ factor in a custom-fabricated product that is easy to maintain.”

ThinkGlass offers an array of 100% recyclable custom glass countertops that are non-porous and durable for indoor and outdoor use. Each countertop is unique, with a huge selection of molded textures and hand-painted colors available. Customers can select glass thickness, edge treatments and even add LED lights. The countertops are naturally resistant to scratches, mold and mildew, and can endure high heat without cracking or scorching, notes the firm.

Circle No. 200 on Product Card



Grab Bar with Accessories

2. **Moen Home Care** Grab Bars with Integrated Accessories combine the safety benefits of a grab bar with three common bath accessories – a towel bar, a paper holder and a shelf.

“Our goal is to make every bath a safe bath. And, for savvy homeowners looking to incorporate safety at any age, it’s essential we provide products to meet their safety and style requirements,” says Laurie Birko,

Moen Home Care brand manager. “Moen Home Care Grab Bars with Integrated Accessories combine the safety benefits of a grab bar with three common bath essentials. Now, homeowners no longer have to choose between safety or style...they can have both.”

Each piece offers a 250-lb. weight capacity and is available in a Brushed Nickel finish.

Circle No. 201 on Product Card

LED Lights

3. According to Daniel Tripp, Loox LED lighting product marketing manager, **Hafele America Co.**, adding value and functionality to customer designs is what Hafele is all about. The company’s Loox LED system is a perfect example. “Loox has been a great success for us because it is a complete program of LED lights for cabinetry and furniture applications that is very simple to use,” he says. “And it is also very affordable due to the fact that we sell the system worldwide and produce the system in large quantities.”

The Loox system uses a universal, worldwide power system where switches, lights and drivers are “plug and play.” A unique identification system for the operating system allows the user to go by color-coded symbols rather than a specific plug. UL-listed, it allows 50,000 hours of lamp life and provides lower power consumption, according to the firm.

Circle No. 202 on Product Card



1 | Born out of a partnership between Reveal Designs and the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, the Taliesin Design Hardware Collection now includes the new Series 632, which features geometric shapes that integrate wood and metal. The pulls are available in 1.25", 3.75" and 7", and are available in beech, walnut, oil-rubbed bronze and stainless steel.
Circle No. 155 on Product Card



Simple Accents

By Elizabeth Richards

Clean designs that bring a cohesive look to a room and technologies that streamline functionality are top trends in decorative and functional hardware.

While hardware may not be the first thing a designer thinks about when beginning a kitchen or bath project, it is an integral component to the look of the finished product – and the functionality of the space.

Hardware is also the finishing touch that unifies the space, according to manufacturers recently surveyed by *KBDN*. “[Hardware] is the last piece of detail that can pull everything together,” says Warren Ramsland, president of Top Knobs, Inc. in Hillsborough, NJ.

Daniel Tripp, product marketing manager for Hafele America Co. based in Archdale, NC, agrees: “Hardware within a kitchen or bath often is a functional accent. The hardware needs to both serve the intended purpose and complement the room.”

Doug Mockett, founder and CEO of Doug Mockett & Co. in Manhattan Beach, CA, notes, “The hardware serves to complement the furniture or cabinetry without becoming a distraction. A truly effective piece of hardware will not go unnoticed, but will blend seamlessly with the overall design.”

Stacey Singer, general manager for Alno in Sylmar,

CA, concurs: “It’s time to say goodbye to the gimmicky hardware. Consumers are looking for enduring, classic styles, whether they are contemporary or traditional.” She adds that coordinating appliance and larger pulls with cabinet knob designs is a growing trend.

Hardware can also play a major role in personalizing a design, according to Kevin Dewald, marketing and product manager for Keeler Hardware, a brand of Grandville, MI-based Belwith Products LLC. “From a decorative standpoint, the hardware will express homeowners’ personality and taste, an expression of their inner self.” Of course, hardware must also meet the functional needs of the homeowner, he adds, which is where designers must consider size and scale to determine the best choices.

CLEAN AND SIMPLE

Trends are moving away from complex styles toward a cleaner look, manufacturers say, with transitional and contemporary designs leading over traditional.

“Customers are also looking for clean and simple designs,” says Ramsland.



2 | Glace Yar Stained Glass Design now offers the Doublet cabinet knob. A domed checkerboard crystal is placed atop a hand-cut base of stained glass. The Doublet is available in a variety of glass colors and styles.
Circle No. 156 on Product Card



3 | Fersa Hardware’s more than 4,000 handcrafted decorative models are reproductions of period hardware made using ancient methods. The two-tone collection is one of Fersa’s many offerings.
Circle No. 157 on Product Card



4 | Legacy Crystal Knobs and Pulls from Atlas Homewares feature crystals artistically inset. A square and round knob are featured in the collection, as are a 4" and 6" pull, and a 3.75" and 5.75" bracelet pull.
Circle No. 158 on Product Card



5 | The Series 3 Collection from Du Verre Hardware was designed by renowned furniture and lighting designer Scot Laughton. Like all of the company’s hardware, the collection is made from recycled aluminum.
Circle No. 159 on Product Card