

# kitchen & bath DESIGN NEWS

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9/12

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New Department

84 | BEFORE & AFTER TRANSFORMATIONS

Designer's Notebook

43 | MASTER BATHS BECOME MASTER RETREATS

40 | Survey

# DEALERS & DESIGNERS EMBRACE TECHNOLOGY



By Elizabeth Richards

# BATHING RETREATS

## Get Personal

The tub/shower area has become an oasis of style, blending custom features and soothing designs to create a relaxing, spa-like atmosphere.

Homeowners are staying put longer, and therefore asking for showers and tubs that reflect their own needs, wants and personal taste. That's according to manufacturers recently surveyed by *KBDN*, who see a growing interest in tubs, showers and tub surrounds with custom features and spa-like amenities. Additionally, while simplicity is still the buzzword in design, consumers are moving away from "cookie cutter" simple and instead gravitating toward clean, elegant looks that speak to who they are on a very personal level.

Today's consumers want "choices and customization along with a great showering experience," says Jerry Capasso, wholesale showering product manager for the North Olmsted, OH-based Moen Inc.

Jarrold Streng, co-founder and co-president of ForzaStone in Phoenix, AZ, agrees that customization is important, noting, "People are staying in their homes longer so they want to make sure their personal taste is

truly reflected in that environment. They're looking for products that will enhance the environment and the space."

Rick Hirschhaut, senior v.p. for Bath Planet in Palatine, IL, adds: "Homeowners now want more colors, patterns and features for *their* use and not for the next owner. We hear 'I want what I want' more than ever before."

### SIMPLE STYLE

With the continued trend toward simplicity and elegance, designers are seeking products that offer clean lines and finishes that complement but don't overshadow the overall look of the bath.

According to Fran Aukland, the London-based communications manager for Victoria + Albert Baths, which has U.S. headquarters in North Charleston, SC, "We've noticed a definite trend away from the more complicated designs, [which] links into the trend of the bathroom as a sanctuary, or refuge, away from the noise and pressures of the outside world. Having a beautiful freestanding bath to relax in seems to be the definite



Barclay Products' Bolero is a handcrafted hammered copper tub fashioned from heavy-gauge 16" copper. The double slipper tub measures 72" long and an extra-wide 36". The color is engrained into the tub and finished by hand polishing, producing a patina. It is trimmed with a design above a carved ridge base and ornamental rings on the side.  
Circle No. 155 on Product Card



BainUltra's Theatre Stage is an installation option where the tub is elevated atop a dramatic platform. The look is seamless, but the actual tub is set 10" deeper than its outer shell. Theatre Stage is offered with a variety of BainUltra's tubs, including the Amma, Origami, Essencia and Balneo lines.  
Circle No. 156 on Product Card



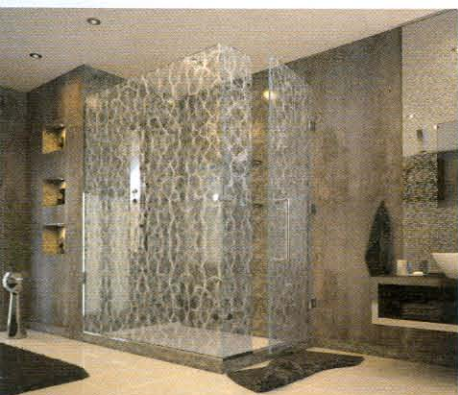
Strom Plumbing by Sign of the Crab combines old-world style with modern technology in its collection of bath fixtures. Among the offerings are reproductions of cast-iron tubs, a stand-alone shower pan and a wide selection of acrylic tubs.  
Circle No. 158 on Product Card



Jason International's Zero Threshold TZ3260 Shower Base is sized 60"x32" and crafted to meet Universal Design needs. The base has a high-strength, stainless steel linear drain recessed into the front of the base to provide easy access, and a built-in tile lip provides a water-tight installation. The shower also includes a slip-resistant floor and integral seat.  
Circle No. 159 on Product Card



The Paiova bathtub from Duravit and Austrian design firm EOOS has been reengineered due to new developments in acrylic technology. Maintaining its distinctive trapezoidal shape, the new Paiova Monolith is carved out of a rectangular, acrylic monobloc, resulting in a seamless tub with continuous lines. An apron leads from the tub's interior all the way down to the floor, removing the need for panelling and rim.  
Circle No. 160 on Product Card



Bendheim has collaborated with Robert A.M. Stern Architects and OmniDecor of Italy to create a collection of shower glasses. Merletto (shown) is a dual-sided pattern inspired by nature. It is permanently etched on ultra-clear (low-iron) glass, creating a dimensional, smooth surface that is resistant to dirt and stains.  
Circle No. 157 on Product Card



'must have' in the home."

Phil Reyes, product manager, hydrotherapy for Aquatic in Anaheim, CA, adds, "Designs are doing what bathtubs are doing. They're not overbearing traditional designs, and they're not the stark minimalist look that we've had for a few years. It's sort of a blend between the two." As people move away from the stark looks, he says, they're also adding storage and shelving to make the shower area work as it should. In another move to keep a clean look, he sees a trend toward hiding the drain - using a front or side drain so that it isn't the focal point of the shower, but more a decorative piece.

Travis Rotelli, interior designer at the Kohler Design Center in Kohler, WI, adds that he's been designing with a lot of large-format tile. "People love the look of tile, but often complain about keeping the grout clean and overall maintenance. Large-format tile doesn't completely eliminate grout, but it does minimize the amount of grout lines, which means it's easier to maintain and quicker to clean."

**ACCESSIBILITY AND CONVERSION**

When creating a bathing area, the current and future needs of the homeowners drive decisions. Hirschhaut says, "What we have seen is that what was once driven by the age of the home has now shifted to the needs of the homeowner. It could be lifestyle or the stage of life, however, it is apparent that things are trending toward functional solutions in our acrylic bath systems." He sees Universal Design elements gaining popularity in the shower and tub area, from grab bars and fold-down seats to shower seats and easy-access tub solutions.

Reyes adds that one of the major trends in showers is the need to reduce barriers and thresholds, as consumers become more aware of the difficulties of stepping into higher threshold showers as they age. This also applies to people with existing tub/shower combination units, he says, and often those units are being pulled out and replaced with shower units only.

Dave Wilson, director of marketing for Bathwraps by Liners Direct in Roselle, IL agrees. "The trends all point to tub-to-shower conversions," he says. "Our dealers are replacing hundreds

and hundreds of tubs each week with roomy, easy entry, safer showers with corner or bench seating and safety grab bars." He adds, "People step over that dangerous tub, and have for years, in the most dangerous room in the house - the bathroom - while entering and exiting for showering. Most families with kids over 10 haven't taken a relaxing bath in years. So our certified installer network uses the existing tub space to fit a custom, roomy, low-threshold shower."

**FULLY LOADED AND CUSTOMIZED**

More than ever, showers and bathtubs are becoming a place to cleanse more than just the body. The addition of aromatherapy, chromatherapy and integrated sound systems creates an in-home spa that soothes the spirit, as well. "Creating one's own unique space is in high demand," says Russ Wheeler, president of Hansgrohe North America, based in Alpharetta, GA. "With more and more customizable options appearing in the marketplace, consumers expect the same when it comes to the bath."

Larry Allen, CEO, managing director, Gessi USA in Anaheim, CA, agrees that recent trends in the luxury shower segment favor customization of the showering experience, with elements like body sprays, ceiling-mounted showerheads with multiple spray modes, and hand-held showers. "Customization is a very important part of the showering experience for clients. There is a significant emotional connection associated with creating an environment that meets the clients' wishes," he says. He has also seen the size of showers increasing as clients incorporate his-and-her combined showers into the space.

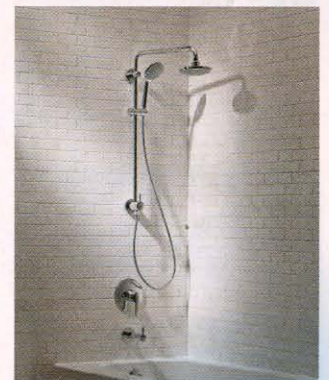
Wheeler has seen a rise in his-and-her shower spaces as well, either in two separate spaces or within one shower area. Additionally, he sees a movement towards a "wet room" open layout design for the bathroom. "Essentially, it is a room dedicated to water and well-being," he says.

Customization also comes into play with products designed to increase accessibility.

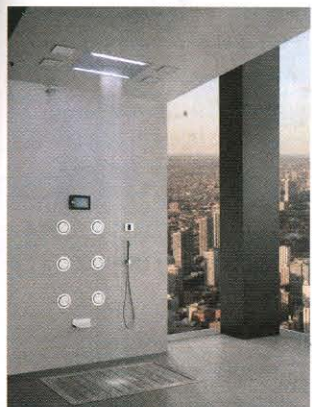
Reyes says that, for Aquatic, customization has been im-



Hansgrohe is bringing its showerpipes to the U.S. market, beginning with the Raindance Select Showerpipe 360. From Phoenix Design for Hansgrohe, this showerpipe features a shelf that doubles as a thermostat, integrated into its flattened metal silhouette. Blue and red markings indicate hot and cold, and the shelf remains a neutral temperature. Circle No. 161 on Product Card



The Grohe Retro-Fit Shower System can be used to upgrade any standard tub/shower installation. The shower system replaces the existing shower arm, and includes an additional handshower. Available in 2.5 and 2.0 gpm models, the system is available with all of Grohe's showerheads or hand showers. Circle No. 162 on Product Card



Graff's Aqua-Sense shower system is available in several configurations for a more personalized at-home spa experience. The Electronic System with Ceiling-Mounted Showerhead creates an intense central rainfall, and features an RGB LED color-changing effect controlled by a touch screen, and a USB port and speakers for portable music player connection. Circle No. 164 on Product Card



Inspired by the study of waterfalls and their surroundings, Brizo's Siderna collection sports ribbon spout architecture teamed with glass accents. Included in the collection are wall and ceiling mount raincan showerheads, Medium Flow TempAssure shower trims and Sensori High Flow Thermostatic shower trims. The showerheads are available in both a 6" square raincan and a 10" rectangular raincan. Circle No. 165 on Product Card



Jaclo's Aquavolo Lumiere offers the option of a waterfall shower or a rain shower in one contemporary unit. The horizontal position of the flat spout provides the rain shower; when the spout is down, it becomes a waterfall. The Aquavolo Lumiere also includes a sound system that accommodates an MP3 player, as well as chromatherapy. Circle No. 163 on Product Card



Creating a shower with Guardian ShowerGuard glass allows maximum light to open up the space. Built to withstand harsh water conditions, ShowerGuard retained its cleanability in independent laboratory testing, notes the company. Circle No. 166 on Product Card

Danze continues to expand its offering in custom showers, with showerheads, handheld showers, body sprays and valve trim just a few of the components offered. New handheld options with a slide bar, such as the 5050 Versa Slide Bar shown, are among the elements available. Circle No. 168 on Product Card



Liners Direct has introduced a replacement shower pan that measures 32"x60" and allows barrier-free access for customers without the need for an additional 12" ramp extending into the bathroom. The center drain shower pan features a solid, three-wall flange, and is available in four colors, including alabaster white, quarry topaz, sandshell beige and platinum grey. Circle No. 167 on Product Card







Devon & Devon's Regal bathtub is now available in colored dress. The color option is part of the company's collection of 210 water-soluble matte paints dedicated to all of its cast iron tubs. Regal features an enameled cast iron interior while the outside is lined with aluminum and then painted in a warm color. Circle No. 169 on Product Card



Produits Neptune's all-polymer WISH collection offers a freestanding 30"x60" rectangular bathtub with contemporary styling. The tub features a solid shell monocoque structure, fluid or highly accented angles and comfortable non-porous texture. Circle No. 170 on Product Card

portant in grab bar locations. "We're giving people the ability within a prefabricated shower to customize where grab bar locations are set up." Additionally, he says, the firm is reinforcing prefabricated showers to allow owners to add a grab bar later. While this isn't a new possibility, he says, "What we are noticing is more and more people are thinking about doing it now than before. There are more [people] taking the necessary steps to be prepared for adding those types of materials in the future."

### COLOR COMBINATIONS

The use of color is another great way to customize, and manufacturers see designers taking advantage of this in the finishes and materials they choose. "We've noticed a small increase in custom finishing - anything from external metal plating to glossy, glass-faced mosaic tiles can add real interest," says Aukland. "However, classic white is still very much the color of choice for most bathrooms."

Rotelli notes, "I think people are choosing to be braver when it comes to color."

Finishes and materials chosen for enclosures add yet another layer to the personalized vision. While choices can vary greatly, some key trends remain strong.

"Chrome and brushed nickel have always been chic choices for the shower," says Wheeler. He adds that chrome has a clean look and the ability to complement many color choices, while oil-rubbed bronze and brushed nickel appeal more to those

with classic, traditional tastes.

Both natural stone and stone-like materials are getting some attention. "While natural stone has always been relevant in the bathroom, we're continuing to see people use it more and more," says Streng. His company is seeing more fully enclosed showers, where the stone is going all the way to the ceiling, and sometimes even enclosing the ceiling as well, he adds.

Hirschhaut says he has seen increased interest in simulated-stone finishes and wall patterns. "Homeowners express the need to mix-and-match colors; some color combinations that our designers may have thought were strange have really turned out quite stunning," he adds.

### SPATIAL RELATIONS

Size trends vary by region and clientele as well, but with the rise in remodels to existing space, manufacturers are seeing a demand for smaller bathtubs that will fit the available space. "There's a real demand for compact baths within the U.S. market to fit within the traditional 60" bath space," says Aukland, who notes, "With a great design and deep, double-ended bathing, our seamless, freestanding tubs unlock the potential of compact spaces by revealing more floor around the tub, thereby creating the impression of space."

Reyes has also seen a shrinking footprint in the overall bathroom, which leads to a shrinking footprint in the shower.

Streng, however, notes that he sees showers continuing to grow in size. Over the past 10 years, he says, the master bathroom has tripled in size, and showers are following suit.



Essence is the latest in a series of Frameless Sliding Glass Shower Door Systems from C.R. Laurence Co. Essence allows for a headerless appearance by utilizing 1/2" tempered glass and a bottom railing system that includes an anti-derail/anti-pinch guard feature. The headerless appearance provides an unobstructed view. Circle No. 171 on Product Card



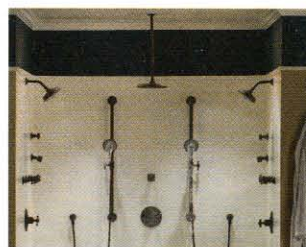
Sterling's Accord seated shower features a geometric back wall design and block-style sided walls. The curved back wall maximizes the available showering space and creates a sense of openness. The shower seat is designed at a comfortable sitting and transfer height of 17-1/2", and is movable and removable, fitting snugly into place. The Accord is designed to fit in standard-sized alcoves, and is available in two sizes. Circle No. 172 on Product Card



The Luxury Shower System (LSS) from Watermark ID/Watermark Designs features a full-color digital touch screen, thermostatic valve that controls up to four shower outlets, ability to control shower lights and connection to any audio device with headphone jack. Nine programmable preset shower scenarios allow users to set their name, water temperature, water outlets, speaker volume, lights and water consumption. Circle No. 173 on Product Card



The Aspen tub from Native Trails features a simple oval design that fits with most designs - from Asian to traditional. The hand-hammered, double-walled recycled copper bathtub can be used as a freestanding tub or tucked into a corner, and can also be used as an outdoor soaking tub. The tub can be finished in Antique or Brushed Nickel. Circle No. 174 on Product Card



This customized, two-person shower system from Newport Brass features a variety of products in an oil-rubbed bronze finish. Special features include wall-mounted slidebar handshowers, three styles of adjustable body sprays, a rainfall showerhead and shower trim sets from the Victoria Collection. Circle No. 175 on Product Card

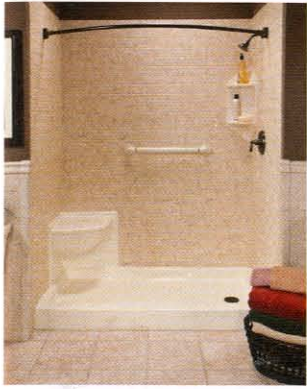


The EAU Soaking Tub from Stone Forest is an ofuro (Japanese-style soaking tub), hand carved out of a single piece of Carrara Marble. The tub comes with an ergonomically designed bench carved into the stone, and rests at 20" deep, allowing for complete body immersion. The Carrara marble possesses insulating properties that allow it to retain the water's heat. Circle No. 176 on Product Card



The Cabrits tub from Victoria + Albert gets its inspiration from the Cabrits peninsula on the Caribbean island of Dominica. The bath is crafted from Englishcast, a product rich in volcanic limestone that provides natural insulation to retain heat. The tub's curves fit the body while offering support and comfort. Circle No. 177 on Product Card





BCI Acrylic Bath Systems offers a range of shower and tub solutions for the bathroom. Shown is the Almond Showerbase with Almond Corner Shower Seat, Brecchia Subway Wall Surround and Oil Rubbed Bronze finish fixtures. Circle No. 178 on Product Card



Two geometric antipodes join together to create the Rohl Jorger Empire II Shower System. Inspired by contemporary Asian lines reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright's Imperial Hotel, the shower system features cantilevered faucets and handles. Finishes for the system include Polished Chrome, Platinum and Platinum Mat. Circle No. 179 on Product Card



Wetstyle's Tulip tub is inspired by the simple and organic shape of a blossoming tulip. Subtly rounded edges along the rim circle two ergonomically minded sitting positions in this tub built for two. Circle No. 180 on Product Card

becoming the focal area in the bathroom, and incorporating multiple showerheads, his-and-her showerheads and different types of body sprays in a large-scale enclosure.

Wheeler adds that open spaces are also in demand. "In terms of enclosures, what we've actually been seeing is the minimal use of them – keeping the bathroom area as open looking as possible. Sometimes these enclosures appear restrictive and can 'chop up' the space." He adds that the shower pipe category is an example of the trend toward open spaces. The shower is becoming more and more a part of the main space, anchoring the bathroom and serving as a central design element. "The shower pipe provides an elegant and unexpected look and can help to serve this purpose," he says.

### TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES

Technology creates options for designers looking to give their clients the best possible experience. Consumers are able to customize their sensory input when they shower, controlling elements with the touch of a button, and can easily change the settings to suit many individuals in the household.

"Technology is playing a major part in new product development with many manufacturers," says Allen. "Digital shower controls can be programmed with various operational features including water temperature, volume control and multiple shower outlet selection."

it easier for consumers to select and deliver their showering preferences. Moen has iO digital, which provides an easy-to-use controller for volume and temperature along with the selection of the devices [homeowners may] want to use while enjoying the spa experience."

Rotelli agrees that digital controls, such as Kohler's DTV Prompt, are an excellent way to personalize and customize a shower. From quickly reaching a pre-programmed temperature to choosing which fixtures are on, this technology allows consumers to personalize their shower with ease. "The interface is waterproof, so it's designed to live in your shower, and the installation doesn't require you to upgrade your plumbing size in the bathroom," he says.

Similarly, Wheeler says that Hansgrohe's RainBrain fills the need for advanced technology in the market. In addition to offering touch-control of the shower, he says RainBrain is also a great Universal Design product. "The touch screen is ideal for individuals who may not have total use of their hands and fingers. They can operate the system by pressing the buttons with the palm of their hand or knuckle. This simple and intuitive functionality corresponds to the overall trends seen in electronics in the last years."

The walk-in tub is another advance in technology that addresses accessibility issues. Hirschhaut says, "No product speaks more to full integration of features than a walk-in bathtub; incorporating a tub, tub seat, adjustable jets, grab bars, hand-held shower, temperature controls and digital control settings for every need – it truly is revolutionary technology,

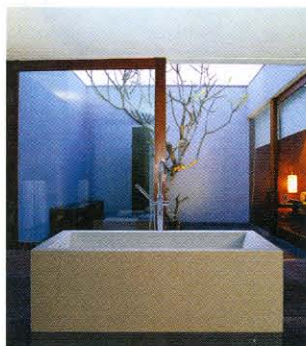


Villeroy & Boch's La Belle freestanding bathtub features soft lines and sleek design. Made from the company's Quarryl material, the tub is available in classic alpin (white) with a white or graphic noir skirt. Circle No. 181 on Product Card



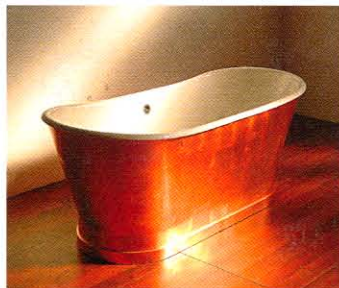
Capasso adds, "Manufacturers are integrating digital technology within the shower to make

The Voss bath collection from Moen includes faucets, accessories and showering products that provide a transitional look. The shower options include wall mount and handheld showers, rainshowers, slide bars and Eco-Performance models. The Eco-Performance units meet WaterSense criteria and feature a 1.75 gpm flow rate. Circle No. 182 on Product Card



The Maddux 1 and 2 freestanding tubs from MTI Baths feature modern, minimalist design, with right angles and flat exterior planes. An interior backrest is angled for comfort. The tubs include a discreet integrated overflow slot and Toe-Tap drain. The two different-sized tubs come in white or biscuit with either a matte or gloss finish. Circle No. 184 on Product Card

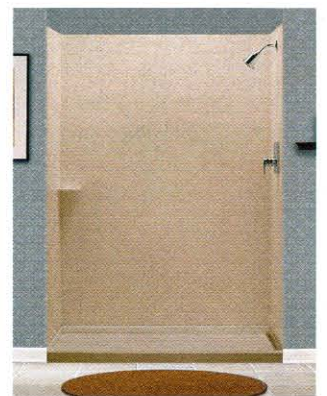
Sunrise Specialty's Copper Leaf Piedmont freestanding bath is crafted from copper leaf applied to a steel skirt. The tub's design was inspired by the antique copper wash tubs of the Old West. The interior is nonporous vitreous china. Circle No. 183 on Product Card



Kohler now offers the Underscore baths with Bask heated surface. Bask provides a warm surface for the neck and back, and adjustable temperature settings for a customized bathing experience. The Bask heated surface technology is available on all nine sizes of the Underscore bath, including the Underscore Cube. Circle No. 185 on Product Card



One of the newest additions to Toto's Neorest Suite of bath products is the Shower Booth, which offers bathers a customized shower experience. Featuring Italian glass panels, the Shower Booth provides full control over water temperature and air-infused volume via a touch-button control panel. An LED light powered by Toto's EcoPower technology displays the water temperature on the panel. Circle No. 186 on Product Card



The Cienca solid-surface shower wall and base system from American Standard can be glue installed over existing tile, concrete or sheetrock. For a more custom fit, Cienca can be cut with a power saw. The shower walls, which are offered in various sizes, are available in four colors – aurora, beach sand, linen and soft white – and five tile patterns – diamond, smooth, 6"x24" subway tile, 12" square tile and 8"x10" tile – to coordinate with any style bathroom. Circle No. 187 on Product Card



# Product Trend Report



The Horizontal Shower is the latest application of Dornbracht's Ambiance Tuning Technique (ATT) technology. Horizontal Shower's six WaterBar sprays, positioned overhead to stimulate neck, shoulders, back, legs and feet, provide invigorating and relaxing shower experiences with three choreographed scenarios to reclined users. Circle No. 190 on Product Card



The Shelburne copper soaking tub from Diamond Spas is a freestanding unit that measures 36"x72"x24". Fashioned from copper sheet metal that is 90% to 95% recycled, the tub is also 100% recyclable. Circle No. 191 on Product Card

Gessi's Spa Shower includes the Tremillimetri 3mm showerheads with cascade waterfall, plus three body sprays. Measuring only about 1/10" thin, the showerheads are available in wall-mount versions with rounded or square profiles. They feature a super polished stainless steel mirror finish, and one version is available with an LED white light. Circle No. 192 on Product Card



Artos has added a new pressure balance mixer to its Italian Designer Collection. The pressure balance mixers are available with or without diverters in chrome and brushed nickel as well as three different trim styles that coordinate with Artos faucets. ASSE 1016 certified, the mixers offer integrated volume control. Circle No. 193 on Product Card

Delta Faucet Co. has released the Traditional Shower System as part of its Universal Design bathing and showering systems. The 60"x34" or 48"x34" unit fits into a standard bath/shower alcove and includes a brushed stainless-steel center grab bar, four shelves, two foot rests and an available flip-up seat. Circle No. 188 on Product Card



Roda by Basco Shower Enclosures is a line of luxury shower enclosures that includes eight collections. Ranging in style from traditional to modern, each collection offers a number of different styles, configurations and accessory options. Shown is the Dresden shower enclosure. Circle No. 189 on Product Card



and we see a higher demand for these."

Technology comes into play in other ways, as well. Hirschhaut notes, "In our business, we see the growth of integrating technology with design. Since a bath remodel is an endeavor most homeowners do only once or twice in their lives, we've developed tools to help create a visual image of what their bath would look like when complete. This visualization software has been a great help in better ascertaining their needs, as well."

Ultimately, though, the success of the technology relates directly to how simple – or complicated – it is. As Capasso concludes, "In the end, it's all about ease of use and ease of installation."

## HOT AND STEAMY

As designers take homeowners towards a spa-like home bath, a steam generator added to the shower can be a logical step. Streng says his firm has seen a large increase in requests for steam showers, which he believes is all part of showers becoming a focal point more than the tub.

Martha Orellana, v.p. for Mr. Steam based in Queens, NY adds, "I feel that the steam world in general has positioned itself where jetted tubs were in the '80s." Indeed, there seems to be some momentum building for steam, due to water conservation and wellness trends.

Orellana notes that Mr. Steam has created a more affordable line of steam generators, and therefore expanded the marketplace, explaining that some consumers are now realizing that they can afford what they'd always seen as a luxury product.

## ECO-FRIENDLY

Both stricter regulations and a growing awareness of environmental issues have had an impact on trends in bathing fixtures, as well. "Water conservation regulations have definitely impacted traditional applications of conventional products used


in the shower," says Allen.

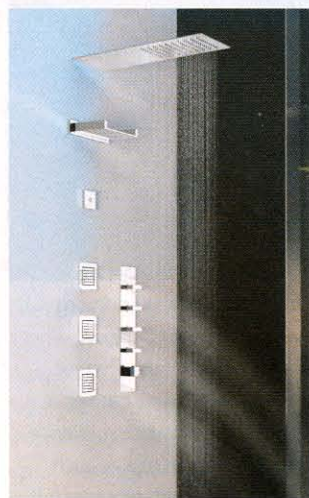
Aukland agrees. "One notable trend that is gaining momentum is that of saving water," she says. "Around the world there are increasing numbers of guidelines, rules and regulations to limit consumption, and the freestanding bath cannot be immune to environmental pressures."

Capasso believes, "The majority of consumers haven't latched onto the latest water conservation practices because there hasn't been a change to the national standard since EPA92, which calls for a maximum flow rate of 2.5 gpm at 80 PSI. However, there are state and regional codes mandating water savings at lower flow rates. The challenge we as manufacturers are faced with is the lack of consistency between the states and regions."

Wheeler adds that there is always new legislation emerging and, as a whole, the industry is adapting to consumers' needs, as well as offering more WaterSense certified and eco-efficient products.

Of course, some consumers still fear that water conserving products can diminish the water experience in the shower. As such, Wheeler notes, "We have also seen that people are being more conscious about how much time they are spending in the shower [rather than going with a water conserving product]. In the end, sometimes it's not the fittings that are installed that make the difference, but how they are used and for how long."

Steam lends itself as a natural choice when consumers are thinking of water conservation, says Orellana, as a steam unit averages less than a gallon of water for a 20 minute session, rather than 40-60 gallons to fill a tub. She adds that people are becoming aware not just of water, but eco-friendly products, such as their steam generator, which is made from recyclable stainless steel. "It's the size of a briefcase, and can be used over and over," Orellana says. "It's never going to be sitting in a landfill." 



Aquatic has released the Starla acrylic, drop-in, hydrotherapy tub that fits in standard 60" bathing alcoves. At 57" long, 38" wide and 24" deep, the oval tub is available as a soaker or a whirlpool with eight adjustable jets that target the hips, legs, back and feet. It also features sculpted armrests, an oversized backrest and a raised headrest. Circle No. 194 on Product Card



The StyleTherm thermostatic shower system from California Faucets provides thermostatic technology at pressure balance pricing. Besides the ability to dial in exact temperatures, StyleTherm requires no diverter valve to toggle between shower applications – each is operated via its own volume control. The system includes anti-scald temperature protection. It is available in a range of styles and finishes. Circle No. 195 on Product Card



The Sydney tub from Hydro Systems has the same footprint as a standard tub, though it provides a deeper tub for soaking. It features an extra-thick reinforced fiberglass body, finished in a 1/8"-thick layer of acrylic. Offered with a non-skid bottom, options include Microban antibacterial protection, molded arm rests, jets, heat and chromatherapy. Circle No. 196 on Product Card





▲ **Granite Sinks  
Take on Shades of Black**

When it comes to quartz-granite kitchen sinks, black is the color of choice. The **Schock Houzer Granite Sink** line offers three distinct shades of black in two different material compositions. **Cristalite Plus**, which features a smooth finish and anti-bacterial properties, is available in black tones of **Onyx** and **Nero** (shown). **Cristadur**, which has a smoother, light luminous finish, is offered in **Magma**, a deep shade.

[www.houzersink.com](http://www.houzersink.com)

Circle No. 204 on Product Card



▲ **Sides Created  
From Glass**

**ThinkGlass** offers glass side panels that are textured and scatter light. While the countertops are usually 1.5" thick, for the leg, the thicker the glass, the more impressive the texture, according to the company, which recommends a 2" side. Countertops and sides are made from recycled glass, in a large selection of molded textures and hand-painted colors.

[www.thinkglass.com](http://www.thinkglass.com)

Circle No. 205 on Product Card



▲ **Cabinet Door Software  
Goes Beyond Wood**

**Doors Plus** from **KCD Software** is a line of comprehensive design and manufacturing software especially for door and drawer box manufacturers. The software includes hundreds of new parametric precision templates for door styles usually seen only manufactured in wood. The designs allow for easy and accurate scaling, sizing and modifying with the ability to go directly to CNC manufacturing with the touch of a button.

[www.kcdsoftware.com](http://www.kcdsoftware.com)

Circle No. 206 on Product Card



▲ **Kitchen  
Faucet Displays  
Contemporary Style**

**Sigma Designer Faucetry's** single-hole kitchen faucet features a contemporary profile with a joystick-style lever handle. The swiveling faucet features a horizontal pull-out spray that boasts a dual-function head with stream and spray. The optional light in the base of the faucet changes from blue to red, reflecting the temperature of the water. The faucet is available in **Chrome**, **Satin Nickel**, **Sable Bronze** and **Matte Black**.

[www.sigmafaucet.com](http://www.sigmafaucet.com)

Circle No. 207 on Product Card



▲ **Adler Collaborates  
On Colorful Sinks**

**Kohler** has collaborated with designer **Jonathan Adler** to create **Kohler Colors** Featuring **Jonathan Adler**, a line of color-infused sinks. Kohler has introduced the four special edition colors – **Greenwich Green**, **Piccadilly Yellow**, **Annapolis Navy** and **Palermo Blue** (shown) – on six select enameled cast iron kitchen and bath sinks.

[www.kohler.com](http://www.kohler.com)

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