

HOT Trends



what's new in the kitchen & bath industry

Compiled by Jennings & Company, April 2005

Dear Editor,

What's New in the Kitchen & Bath Industry

It's no secret that kitchens and baths are the two rooms remodeled most frequently. So, keeping up with the remodeling frenzy and staying up on "what's hot" is no easy feat as new products are cropping up faster and faster each day. To help you keep up, we scoured the market, including the colossal offerings at the recent International Builder's Show in Orlando and The Luxury Show in LA, for the most innovative design and product trends around. Here's a recap of what we're seeing.



Textured Doors from Lasertron



Successi from Atlas

Green with Envy



Green. It can be fresh and vivacious, yet seriously soothing. And looking at this season's lineup, it's easy to see why green hues are leading the color spectrum in kitchens and



baths. Reviving the bath from tired to terrific are olive hues in painted and iridescent stained medicine cabinets, subtle green tints in crystal and leaf-motif glass vessels, and deeper hints of green in elegant, almost-black marble basins. As for the kitchen, aquamarine green adds just the right dose of color to a classically unique hutch. In a contemporary kitchen, lime green enhances linear lines in cabinetry and is the perfect complement to grey countertops. (*Mann's Manufacturing, Atlas, SieMatic, Adagio, Contemporary Bath Design*)



Artful Flow

Instead of mere vehicles for water to flow into in basins, today's faucet designs are gallery



worthy. This season's most stunning masterpiece is the artfully-cut silver and gold faucet from Watermark. The open



spout design is inspired by the beauty of flowing water. Also of interest is the Horizon Falls tub from MTI featuring two trickling waterfalls for soothing audio therapy! (*Aqueduct*

from Watermark, MTI Whirlpools)

Fluid Forms

A range of stone-formed sinks and bathtubs have joined the brigade of hand-carved fountains, garden ornaments and vessels becoming so prevalent in outdoor spaces.



Bath basins are being formed and naturally carved from the



earth's granite reserves, onyx, marble and travertine. And the list goes on for those who love the contrast between the solid heaviness of stone and the transparent lightness of water. (*Adagio*)

Show Your Metal

When its used on cabinetry, washbasins, tubs and even outdoor spas it adds a surprising touch of glamour. As stainless steel and other shiny surfaces appear in unexpected places,

they're also being mixed with other materials, from wood to glass tiles. But the most interesting look to turn heads has to go to stainless steel doors for the kitchen.

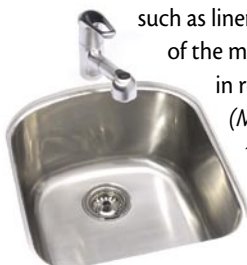
In addition to standard stainless

less steel, finishes such as charcoal or a mirror finish customized in designer textures

such as linen or leather turn a "run of the mill" kitchen "high style" in record time.

(MTI Whirlpools tub

w/stainless, Diamond Spas, Lasertron, Teko)



Euro Storage

Maybe it's their tighter living quarters or maybe it's in the genes, but Europeans have long been known for their ability to make even the smallest kitchens look neat and chic. We're seeing storage systems and accessories from European companies that design-wise literally put other companies in their place. Designed for aesthetics and flexibility, the newest kitchen collections have function down to an art form with holders for specific items such as pot lids and coffee filters, in addition to scoop racks, food scales and even magnetic boards.

(MultiMatic from SieMatic, kitchen étagère from Vanity Flair)



Stress-Free Baths

Our vision may be to create a stress-free zone in the bath, but the very products intended to reduce stress, from massage oils to foot massagers, are being jammed under and a top of counters.



Order and symmetry is vital to the bath and it turns out that the biggest stress inducer is inadequate storage. Adding more organizational pieces, including tall vanities and tub caddies contributes a calming sense of order to the bath, and for that matter, the entire household. (*Vanity Flair*)



Oriental Sway



There's something undeniably chic about designs and rooms with an Oriental influence.

Interesting combinations ensue with bamboo, twine and other natural materials, enhanced by environs where groovy cut grass and Zen-inspired accessories from trickling fountains to shoji screens mix with retro colors and patterns. Among products enhancing the Oriental sway are Japanese soaking tubs



with depth and minimalist lines, stone-topped vanities inspired by the Asian sensitivity to form, and bamboo cabinetry pulls and knobs. (*Yubune from MTI Whirlpools; Hamptons bamboo pulls from Atlas Homewares, Mini Nikko from Vanity Flair*)



His & Her Spaces - It's all about customizing

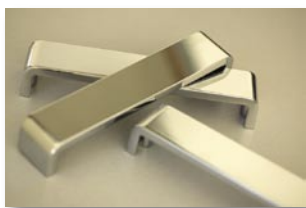
For him, an attractive bath is nice, but function and an element of entertainment are more important. To her, there's no compromising on design. So a bath cleverly divided by gender and function is optimal for aesthetics and privacy. A material mix that includes some dark wood detail or etched glass



speaks to his masculinity while enhancing her favorite details such as a scalloped valance or mauve-hued tiles. Innovative products also play a large, but discreet role in creating his and hers spaces. One of the most innovative to come down the pike has to be the Seura TV Mirror. The specially formulated mirror allows a picture to be viewed when the LCD TV is powered on and when turned off, it's completely hidden from view to allow for a complete mirror reflection. (*Seura TV Mirror*)

Retro Style

Vintage furniture and objects have long been the desire of more stylish glamour seekers. In a word, it's chic. Whether it's a 1940s retro lamp that recalls the days of Bogie and Bacall or a small, powerful blast of tangerine orange reminiscent of the '70s. Atlas Homewares seems to have the retro decorative hardware market cornered with its round Indochine knobs in bright pop art colors and Modernist, a line featuring geometric-shaped



knobs with a streamlined moderne sensibility. As for lighting, you won't want to miss Baci's Murrina glass hand-blown series featuring multi-colored millefiori accents that look downright psychedelic. (*Atlas Homewares, Baci by Remcraft*)

Have it Your Way

There have never been such customizable and easily personalized showerhead designs. Every detail is considered and geared toward individualizing shower choices. You'll find ergonomic handles, multiple spray options, large spray faces, and whole-body coverage. But tailored functionality isn't all. Exemplifying this is Harrington Brass Works' shower bars in a gracefully shaped style that resembles a curved flute. (*Harrington Brass Works*)



Glamour in a Pinch

Creating a glamorous look in tight kitchens and baths is not without its challenges. But with some creative product choices, the result can be superb. You'll want to focus on shape and surface interest. Try on an egg-shaped bath vanity sink for size or some jeweled hardware – a real gem for adding glimmer and shine. And in the kitchen, there's nothing like textured stainless steel cabinets for a dose of big style. (*Lasertron, Tangeers from Atlas Homewares*)



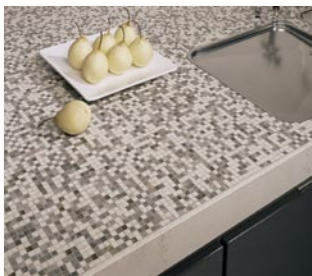
Rocking the Canvas

Innovative companies are creating some of the most interesting designs with the help of an artist's hand. Lending a one-of-a-kind look are artists' drawings, from nature scenes to modern designs, applied to tile and granite with the help of digital and laser technologies. We're also seeing artful images enhancing bathtub surfaces and kitchen backsplashes like this one from Images in Tile. One of the most extravagant tubs features scenes from bamboo forests and blossoming trees to a whimsical heron. By Elite Bath, this masterpiece is in solid bronze and lists for \$100,000. (*Images in Tile, Elite Bath*)



Surface Paradise

Tiny, glossy tiles to marble stones, painstakingly handset, are creating some of the most unique countertop designs. SieMatic Mosaic Design revealed unlimited mosaic design possibilities in Milan. The company received raves for its designs showing interplays of pattern, color and combinations of material including natural stone and porcelain ceramics. The lineup's most interesting surfaces feature broken mosaic pieces and inlays of gold and/or Venetian glass. From other companies, playful tile patterns created with a wide array of puzzle-like pieces stand out. (*SieMatic*).



Be Quiet!



The popularity of open plan kitchens has created a need for keeping sound volumes as low as possible. So, inspired to keep it down, manufacturers are installing sound-deadening technologies into everything including cabinetry, sinks and appliances. State-of-the-art rubber seals are allowing cabinet doors and drawers to close

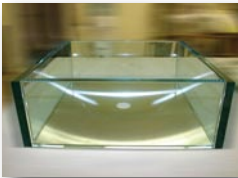
quickly and quietly. A special shield technology is keeping the ringing sound from clanging dishes and silverware to a minimum in stainless steel sinks. Even vent hoods have been quieted down, an especially pleasing sound to builders. (*Teka [shown], SieMatic*)

Bowled Over by Glass

Every time it seems the market is tapped when it comes to unique bath sinks, we're bowled over again by another incredibly unique design. In glass, the frame or edge of the vessel provides a natural canvas for



creating a range of looks featuring delicate crystals and cut glass designs to carved edges. As a result, the ordinary bath or powder room is transformed into the extraordinary. (*Contemporary Bath Design*)



Marine Trend



When it comes to yachting, discriminating owners and designers are looking for space saving luxury bath products. Two immediately caught our eye, wood pedestal basin from Adagio and the Atlantica tub from MTI Whirlpools (*Adagio, MTI Whirlpools*)



Five Star Amenities

It's no surprise that Baci makes our list of top trends. Consumers are longing to pamper them-selves with lush hotel amenities like advanced makeup mirrors with optical clarity! You'll look better in a Baci Mirror. (*Baci*)



Heating it Up in Las Vegas



The 2005 Kitchen/Bath Industry Show & Conference

Conference: May 9 - 12, 2005

Expo: May 10-12, 2005

Las Vegas Convention Center

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