



Left: Fisher & Paykel 36-inch Cool Drawer unit



Lotus hammered copper tub by Native Trails



Left: Oceana glass vessel sink

What's **HOT** in Kitchens and Baths?

From the 2010 Kitchen & Bath Industry Show

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Chicago's McCormick Place was the site of this year's 29th annual Kitchen & Bath Industry Show & Conference (KBIS), where attendees were treated to three days of nonstop educational seminars, networking opportunities and the latest in product innovations for the kitchen and bath industry. Incorporating more than 350,000 square feet of exhibit space, the event attracted more than 30,000 attendees and nearly 700 manufacturers and service providers from over a dozen countries.

As has been experienced by so many trade conventions in the recent past, overall attendance was down from prior years. However, this afforded many attendees an opportunity to see more and do more at the show with shorter waiting lines and better viewing of product demonstrations. The following are some highlights from the show floor.

In 2008, glass was all the rage — glass sinks, tiles, counter tops, glass-fronted appliances etc. Although glass is still very popular, metal was the emerging material trend at this year's show. Considering the global instability in the financial markets and the number of recent natural disasters, it is no wonder that this strong, resilient and malleable material is finding its way into so many aspects of the homes, as if to render a sense of solidity in people's lives.

Nowhere in the show was this better illustrated than in the Alaskan Bronze booth. This custom manufacturer of bronze sink basins displayed a beautiful selection of proprietary sinks that evoked a strong, organically textural feel. These sinks can be ordered direct from the artisan at www.alaskanbronze.com.

Native Trails, known for its hammered copper sinks and bathtubs, has expanded its line to include hammered

exhaust hoods (available from Ferguson's, price depends on size and model).

In addition to metal, the other big trend was texture. Textured surfaces, both real and perceived (Dupont Corian has some new colors that look quite nubby but in reality are smooth), were found in a wide variety of products including sinks, counters, lighting, tiles and cabinet hardware. Textured materials provide a feeling of organic perfection, giving consumers a connection to their natural world. The textured-glass vessel sink from Oceana or the faceted sink from Kohler, priced at \$490 and \$450 respectively (available at Ferguson's, Keller Supply and Kitsap Peninsula Plumbing), and the leather composite rectangular cabinet pull priced at \$65 each (available from Chown Hardware, Bellevue) are wonderful illustrations of this tactile trend.



Moen Arbor faucet



Dustless Technologies HEPA shop vacuum



Task Lighting, maker of the Angle Power Strip

“Green” is no longer a trend. Sustainability, in all its facets, has entered the mainstream. This was illustrated not only by the sustainable practices of show owner, the NKBA, and the show venue, McCormick Place (two years ago there were no recycling bins in the exhibition hall and this year they were conveniently located throughout the building) but also by the educational presentations and the quantity and quality of recycled content and conservation-oriented products on display.

Moen is dedicated to making all its eligible products “Water Sense” certified (excluding Showhouse) by the end of June 2010. The Moen Arbor faucet featured not only has a flow interrupter but comes in a low-flow, Water Sense certified model. Pictured in brushed nickel in the photo above, it retails for \$475 (available at Ferguson in Port Orchard and Keller Supply in Bremerton).

Delta has introduced the Linden and Addison pull-down kitchen faucets with Touch2O Technology whereby users can start and stop the flow of water with a simple tap anywhere on the spout or the handle, saving both water and energy. In chrome, this product lists for approximately \$400 (available at Keller Supply in Bremerton).

Element Designs, manufacturer of the Elements aluminum and stainless steel cabinet doors and the Elumina lighted shelf, has brought its AF004 model with 70 percent recycled aluminum (available from E.B. Bradley Seattle).

For the Trades

Not everything at the show was for

designers only. Two products that stood out for the designer/builder where an instant shoe-covering device and a HEPA vacuum. My Dirt Buster instant shoe cover (available online at www.mydirtbuster.com) applies plastic booties direct to your foot or shoe. Step into a simple box, and voila, your foot is covered. The box is refillable. This makes protecting the clients’ floors from dirt and dampness a breeze — no bending required!

Dustless Technologies offers a powerful HEPA Vacuum No. 16008 shop vacuum, listed at \$659, that allows you to attach a wide assortment of power tools right to the vacuum hose, significantly reducing jobsite dust. This in turn saves time and money by minimizing the man-hours devoted to cleanup. It also meets the EPA’s new requirements for handling lead paint dust (available at Mason Supply Co. in Port Orchard and Home Depot nationwide as of June).

Every lighting manufacturer at the show had one or more LED (light emitting diodes) products on display. LED has come a long way in the recent

past with better light output, better color rendering, longer bulb life and a more affordable price tag. The size of the bulbs and required driver make it a natural candidate for under-cabinet lighting, inside cabinet lighting and many accent lighting applications. Task lighting, maker of the magnificent Angle Power Strip, has a compact driver (like a transformer) that fits in the power strip, making under-cabinet lighting a much easier retrofit option.

Other Trends

Contemporary is “the” in-style. Blanco gives contemporary style a spin with its great new interpretation of the “tile-in” sink called the micro edge sink. It has all ►



Mr. Cabi-Shield



Air Elegance by Kingston; a whole body-drying system

the benefits of an undermount sink without the installation issues or depth issues (available at Ferguson's and Keller Supply — prices vary). Everett-based Electric Mirror, LLC is offering its hotel mirror collection to consumers. The Trinity lighted mirror and the Stanford TV in a mirror with built-in television complement any style bathroom.

Making life safer and more convenient is another trend. Rohl's handheld shower slide bar doubles as a grab bar as does



Elements Designs aluminum and stainless steel cabinet doors



Jenn Air Appliances dual fan convection system wall oven

HealthCraft Products Inc.'s corner shower shelf (integrated grab bar, with towel bar, toilet paper holder and other accessories are also available). The Rohl complete kit (bar, shower head, hose and union) retails for approximately \$850 in chrome (available from Ferguson or Keller Supply) while the HealthCraft corner shelf retails for approximately \$250 from a variety of online retailers.

How about things you didn't realize you needed? Most of us have experienced a leak in the kitchen sink cabinet at some point in our life. Mr. Cabi-Shield is a new product innovation that not only keeps the floor of your sink cabinet clean but also protects from accidental leaks. It retails for \$89 (accessory alarm retails for \$34.95) and is available direct from the manufacturer online.

Air Elegance by Kingston is a whole body-drying system that is mounted to a wall in a bathroom, locker room, aquatic center or spa. There are two models to choose from. The KAT2 requires a dedicated GFCI on 120-volt circuit and renders 1,800 watts of power, easily mounting on a wall. The KAT4, geared for the hospitality and commercial market, requires a

dedicated two-pole GFCI 240-volt circuit and renders 2,200 watts of heating power. The benefits are reduced facility maintenance, reduced laundering, which facilitates cost cutting as well as energy and water savings. Additionally, this unit can help provide some autonomy for dexterity-impaired people (stroke victims and those with arthritis), individuals with skin conditions that prevent them from using a bath towel comfortably such as burn victims, as well as those with tactile defensive syndrome.

Best of Show

Jenn Air Appliances has developed a unique wall oven offering an innovative, dual-fan convection system along with a unique touch screen that incorporates an image-enabled cooking guide, garnering it several prestigious industry awards including Kitchen & Bath Business 2009 Innovation of the Year; the Consumer Electronics Association's Innovations 2010 Design and Engineering Award in the home appliance category; Professional Builder's 100 Best New Products of 2009; Popular Mechanics' 12 Must-Have Products and House Beautiful's The BEST! for the kitchen category.



Energy Star qualified recessed fan/lights from Broan and NuTone

The convection elements, rated at a total of 6,800 watts, have fans that rotate in opposite directions to provide power for an exclusive No Preheat function. The No Preheat mode allows cooks to bake on one rack without any preheating, and without extending the recipe bake time. The unit was designed to fit 90 percent of all other manufacturers' cutouts, making it an ideal candidate for remodels and replacements. The single 30-inch oven retails for \$3,600 and the double retails for \$5,000 (available from Nilsen's Appliances Silverdale and Schmidt's Appliance Bainbridge Island).

Fisher Paykel's 36-inch Cool Drawer is an ENERGY STAR® qualified freezer/refrigeration unit with a 3.1 cubic foot capacity. This unit provides homeowners with the ultimate in food storage flexibility because it can go from freezer mode to pantry mode in

just 12 hours and all points in between (refrigerator, white wine storage and red wine storage). The retail list price is \$2,199 panel-ready or \$2,399 with manufacturer's stainless panel (available from Nilsen's Appliances Silverdale and Schmidt's Appliance Bainbridge Island).

The Energy Star qualified recessed fan/Lights from Broan and NuTone now feature SensAire technology to help ensure moisture is effectively exhausted at the source by automatically ridding

the home of excess humidity. An internal humidity sensing switch triggers the concealed, quiet ventilation fan. This unit lists for approximately \$130 (available from Ferguson's and Keller Supply).

Whether you are building, renovating or simply replacing expired materials, there is a wonderful array of affordable and innovative kitchen and bath products waiting to be included in your next project. ♦