

Product Review

PLUMB
Products

Exquisite and functional plumbing and hardware products were front and center at the recent 7th Annual Decorative Plumbing and Hardware Conference. More than 90 manufacturers exhibited at this year's venue – the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa in Phoenix, AZ.

Independent showroom dealers from North America were treated to an array of products from this upscale sector, including items that fit the bill for traditional, transitional and contemporary design. Styles and finishes ranged from simple to bold, meeting the needs of today's designers.

More than 80 new products were introduced at the intimate gathering. Faucets took on distinctive shapes, as well as up and coming finishes such as antique bronze and satin black. Sinks presented mirrored finishes and edges, as well as distinctive designs for the kitchen and wet bar.

The bath and powder room products also made a statement, with shower systems that provide customization for the user, as well as sinks and faucets that take on the dual role of functional and beautiful.

A host of styles and finishes continue to make news in the decorative hardware segment, with traditional pieces sporting extraordinary detail and contemporary items offering clean lines and dramatic design.

On this and the next three pages, *Kitchen & Bath Design News* showcases a small sampling of what was making a splash at the DPHA Conference.

1. Aino Inc.'s sleekly styled Arch range of cabinet knobs and pulls is available in five finishes: Bronco, Chocolate Bronze, Polished Chrome, Polished Nickel and Satin Nickel.

Circle No. 250 on Product Card

2. Blanco America's MicroEdge is a concept built on the company's SteelArt sink. Designed and engineered with ultra-fine 1.0 to 1.25 mm sink rims, MicroEdge frames an edge with flowing transitions. The MicroEdge sink is available in nine models, with three basic configurations: 1-3/4 bowl, 20" single bowl and super single bowl.

Circle No. 251 on Product Card

3. Amphora from Phylrich features a vase-shaped faucet design inspired by ancient vases from 15th century B.C. Amphora is available in 24 Phylrich finishes, two handle styles – ribbon (shown) and fan – and more than 65 product options.

Circle No. 252 on Product Card

4. The Tradition Collection from Rainbow Bath Furnishings includes a vanity, matching mirror, medicine and curio cabinet, available in Colonial Cherry and the newest finish, Antique Black. The vanity, which is available in 24", 30", 36", 48", 60" and 72", features all hardwood construction with soft-close doors and matching full finished interiors.

Circle No. 253 on Product Card



1.

2.



3.



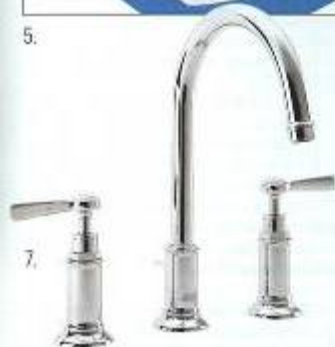
4.



5.



6.



7.

8.



9.

10.



11.



5. The WhisperWarm ventilation fans from **Panasonic Home & Environment Co.** provide heat and air ventilation. The WhisperWarm FW-11VHL2 is available with a light and night light feature, while the WhisperWarm FW-11VH2 is available without lights.

Circle No. 254 on Product Card

6. The StyleDrain from **California Faucets** features sleek styling and a patent-pending design with no visible screws and flush grill plate for foot comfort. The two debuting StyleDrain designs are square shaped to fit well with traditional square-shaped tile, and feature patterns that blend with a range of designs. The drains are available in 30 different finishes.

Circle No. 255 on Product Card

7. **Hansgrohe** has enhanced its Axeor Monreux bath collection with the addition of lever handles to the lav and bidet faucets, tub fillers and shower trims. The cross-handle fittings that were part of the original collection will remain in the line. The Axeor Monreux collection is available in three finishes: chrome, brushed nickel and polished nickel.

Circle No. 256 on Product Card

8. **InSinkErator** is offering a chilled water tank, which produces on-demand, chilled, 38-degree Fahrenheit water at the sink at the rate of one gallon per hour. It is offered as an add-on accessory to existing hot/cool instant hot water systems or as a stand alone unit sold with a cold-only faucet.

Circle No. 257 on Product Card

9. The Signature Series from **ThermaSol** is a miniature command center for the steam shower that offers the user precise temperature adjustment, variable session times, sound system volume control, chromatherapy light type intensity and two user presets when used with the Serenity Light and Music System. The collection comes in two styles: traditional and contemporary.

Circle No. 258 on Product Card

10. The York Column from **Jaclo Industries** is an all-in-one shower fixture featuring two overhead adjustable-angle rain tiles in addition to a waterfall showerhead and hand shower. It is fitted with shelving for soap, shampoo and other items for the shower.

Circle No. 259 on Product Card

11. The Versatile Collection of modular bath furniture from **Sonia** offers numerous mix and match options for the bath. Constructed of multi-layer, marine-grade wood that is 100% water resistant, the wood is offered in a range of finishes, including walnut, wenge, white and ash. Glass panels offering numerous color options or graphic prints can be added to the front of the console for a personalized style.

Circle No. 260 on Product Card

12. The Design Inspirations '08 Collection from **Elkay Mfg.** includes three Vase sink shapes created by designer Jamie Drake, ASID. The Vase sink emulates a graceful vase silhouette, and is available in three configurations: a double Vase sink, a single Vase sink paired with a rectangular prep sink and a freestanding single Vase sink.

Circle No. 261 on Product Card

13. The PBS-40C Prep Sink and Wet Bar Water Filtration System by **Everpure** provides filtered drinking water through the use of a pot filter or kitchen prep sink, or at the wet bar. The unit comes complete with filter, aluminum cartridge plus replacement cartridge with filter, aluminum cartridge plus replacement cartridge, stainless steel fittings and an integral shut-off valve and flow control device.

Circle No. 262 on Product Card



12.



13.



Project Case Study

Spotlight on creative, problem-solving kitchens and baths

Space-Swapping L.I. Kitchen Gets Airy Update



Photo: Joseph T. Harvey

By Andreo Girolamo

CE. NORTHPORT, NY—Creating a focal point for a remodeled kitchen can be a challenging proposition for any designer. In the case of this Long Island, NY remodel, a large window with a beautiful view provided the perfect backdrop for a dramatic kitchen relocation.

New York City-based designer Erika Petrowski worked closely with the homeowners to develop plans to switch the dining room, where the window was located, with the kitchen.

The old kitchen suffered from a lack of flow, inefficient use of space, limited countertop and an outmoded style that the clients described as “very ‘80s.” In particular, the clients hated

their tile countertops, which were dated and difficult to clean. They wanted to replace them with something that would be beautiful, easy to clean and durable enough to withstand the “growing up years” of their two young children.

The first thing that needed to be addressed was the overall functionality of the kitchen.

“They needed more space to

This kitchen was once the home’s dining room; designer Erika Petrowski switched the two rooms and cranked down a partial wall to create an open-plan Great Room. At left, Silstone countertops add warmth and glamour, while minimizing maintenance for a busy family.

meet the needs of their family, and an updated look with an open layout in which to entertain. During the holidays, the kitchen becomes the focal point for family and friends,” Petrowski remarks.

“Though the kitchen was directly next to the dining room, a partial wall separated the two rooms, making them both feel smaller. It also interrupted the flow of the space itself,” she adds.

With two young daughters, the homeowners wanted the kitchen to include amenities that could accommodate the family’s busy schedules.

TOTAL TEARDOWN

The kitchen was just one step in a whole-house remodel, which

included gutting and redesigning an adjacent powder room as well as a nearby closet.

To begin the swap of the kitchen and dining room, both spaces were stripped down to the studs. The partial wall between the two rooms was also removed.

The old linoleum floors in the kitchen were pulled up, as was the wood laminate in the dining room. Oak hardwood floors were installed in the new, open space.

“To extend the perceived space in the new kitchen, planning was done around the large bay window, which faces a lovely backyard. The window was lifted an inch to mess up with the countertop to create a seamless flow from counter to window,” says Petrowski.

“The client was very happy



the kitchen. Her concerns were the range and the size of the sink she would need under the large window," says the designer.

Alder cabinetry with a traditional square raised panel door style called Heritage, in a mitre-cut frame, was chosen. A medium-to-dark cherry stain added warmth to the room.

Forste specified amenities such as a lazy susan corner cabinet, pull-out shelves in other base cabinetry and other pull-outs for pots and pans. The island features a three-drawer base that is 30" wide, as well as a double trash pull-

The large bay window, which designer Erica Petrowski says was the impetus for switching the kitchen with the dining room, was raised an inch to meet the Silstone Kalahari countertops. The Elkay double-bowl sink and brushed nickel faucet from Graff's Vintage collection set off the stainless steel appliances, which were a "must" for the homeowner.

with the amount of workspace this solution made available to her," adds Petrowski.

MATERIAL CHANGES

In the old kitchen, the countertops were tile, which the homeowners found hard to clean and, therefore, unsanitary. They also wanted a countertop that would make a powerful design statement.

Silestone by Cosentino Kalahari countertops offered the perfect solution. Silestone's integrated Microban antimicrobial protection addressed the clients' sanitary concerns, and the clients loved both the material's stylish appearance and its ease of maintenance. Silestone Kalahari is featured both on the perimeter countertops and on the center is-

land, offering enhanced work space, which the clients deemed critical.

A Whirlpool Velos Speedcook convection microwave was chosen so that the homeowners' young daughters could use it; the digital presets let them choose the food they want to cook, then select the appropriate temperature, preventing accidents.

A Whirlpool Gold dishwasher is placed to the side of an Elkay Lustertone Stainless Steel double-bowl undermount kitchen sink, which is situated directly below the bay window. Rounding out the product selection is a Frigidaire Professional Series oven, positioned beneath the microwave.

"The client wanted stainless," says Petrowski, noting that all of the new appliances are stainless. The cabinet hardware was selected to complement those metallic tones.

A Graff Vintage single-handle brushed nickel faucet with matching soap dispenser adds design and functional appeal, as does the Portfolio mini pendant light fixture with glass shades; the shades can be easily changed out to suit the season.

CABINETRY COMPONENT

In addition to a wealth of color and texture, including a tiled backsplash along the length of the range wall, the cabinets play a critical role in



The original kitchen featured hard-to-clean tile countertops, so the clients were thrilled with their new Silestone countertops, which feature built-in antimicrobial protection.

adding warmth to the design.

Joe Forste, designer and sales associate at Hauppauge, NY-based Kitchen Depot, guided the selection and installation process.

"The clients asked me to lay out the kitchen cabinetry to fit in the new area that was to become

out in a 15"-wide base cabinet.

"Drawers are rising in popularity," and make this kitchen more functional, notes Forste.

"For the uses of a kitchen like this one, for family and entertaining, it's the definition of convenience," he concludes.



Project Highlights

- Designed by Erica Petrowski, with cabinet help from Kitchen Depot's Joe Forste, this kitchen swapped positions with an adjacent dining room. The removal of a partial wall between the two rooms creates an airy, open-plan great room.
- A wealth of texture and color give this design its appeal, blending warm medium-to-dark cherry stained cabinets with a pale tiled backsplash and Silestone countertops in Kalahari.
- Products include: Whirlpool Velos Speedcook convection microwave; Whirlpool Gold dishwasher; Graff Vintage single-handle brushed nickel faucet with spray and matching soap dispenser; Alder cabinetry in a Tuscan stain from Kitchen Depot with a variety of interior pull-outs and roll-outs; Elkay Lustertone Stainless Steel double-bowl undermount sink; mini-pendant light fixture with glass shades from Portfolio; Frigidaire Professional Series electric oven.