



Gary Turner's KBIS Comments

Another KBIS is in the history books. Mike Anderson, Builder Insider Publisher, and I had a great time walking the show floor and visiting with our friends in the industry. One of the best things about the show was the fact that we stayed at the Hyatt McCormick Place where the convention was held, very convenient for busy press guys.

Even better we didn't have to take any scary taxi rides as we did at the International Builders Show held in Orlando in February. Briefly, we had three scary taxi rides that had conversations with the drivers such as: "Hey where's your meter and rear view mirror?" "Hey, look out for the curb, are you okay to drive?" DRIVER, wake-up, you're swerving into the other lane!"

And... "Trust driver" spoken in a Russian accent in a big black SUV and he very likely could be x KGB...he also commented, "Putin is a great man restoring Russia to a great country of power." He had taken the wrong exit so we weren't quite sure what he had in store for us. But we trusted him and we made it back to our hotel.

Back to KBIS, the show was bigger than ever with almost one million square feet of exhibit space, 20 percent more than last year and about the same as IBS. More RSVPS' came in than ever before, over sixty thousand, and there were over 1,000

exhibitors, the most ever. All the hotel rooms reserved for the show were full.

We were a bit concerned that the attendance for the show might be a little soft because of the economic doom and gloom reports in the mainstream media, and the American Airlines fiasco. However, as we walked the show floor attendees and exhibitors were having the right kind of problems, a great

turn out with booths full of people wanting to learn more about everyone's products.

The new product pavilion was packed with industry professionals looking for new products that will differentiate them from the competition. See the pictures I took of a few of the new products that caught my attention on page 12.

Another thing that struck Mike and I was the fact we ran

into our old acquaintance Herbert Kohler as he personally walked the show floor checking out the competitor's products. We had a short visit in the Elkay booth. We've gotten many pictures of Mr. K over the years and he has always been gracious enough to take some time to visit with us.

Elkay has some really interesting designs as does Danze and Gerber. We were very

impressed with Jennifer Lee, the designer of the new line of Gerber that some of our readers will really like for a modern and/or urban look for the bathroom.

We're excited that our good friend Suzie Williford, VP of Sales for Kiva Kitchen & Bath will be the NKBA President next year. We know she's excited about next year, and we know she'll do a fantastic job as President. It's been a

while since Texas had an industry professional representing us as president of the NKBA.

Next year KBIS will take place in Atlanta in early May. Make plans to attend because we anticipate another great show that will have even more new and improved products that will no doubt help our readers design, draft, build or remodel the best homes possible.