

# Metropolitan Home

From Easy Upgrades to Extreme Makeovers

*Editors' Choice*



All that glitters (from left): The twinkling glass prisms of Elica's Star exhaust fan/light (\$3,750; Elica.com); Réve, Kohler's vitreous-china sink in Honed White, with a Purist faucet in a brushed Moderne Gold finish (sink and pedestal, \$865; faucet, \$480; Kohler.com).

## Kitchen+Bath: A Sourcebook

Kitchens and baths embrace glamour with rich materials, sophisticated dark hues and lush patterns. In the kitchen, speedy meal prep is a must for casual entertaining: New multitasking refrigeration, smart storage, versatile cooktops and drawer appliances help make home cooking seem effortless. The bath, now a spa-like retreat, becomes a place for self-expression. Gold and bronze finishes and sculptural fixtures offer a note of artistry, while seductive stand-alone tubs steal the show. On the following pages, we pick the best new kitchen and bath products, whether you're primed for allover renovation or simply looking for an easy upgrade. *By Katherine E. Nelson*



**Villeroy & Boch** A strong architectural statement, the angular Merano sink from this high-end European manufacturer now comes in cool, glossy black (31½" w x 18½" d, \$1,130; [Villeroy-Boch.com/en](http://Villeroy-Boch.com/en)).

**Dark Stars** Giving a nod to high fashion, kitchen and bath products are dressed in black to dramatic effect. This stylish shade is now available in a range of materials and textures, including rich marble, shiny porcelain, sleek glass and embossed quartz. Finishes range from matte powder-coating to polished and plated nickel and chrome.



**KitchenAid** Wonderfully quiet during its cleaning cycle, the black steel Superba series EQ dishwasher is half as loud as an average conversation (\$1,400; [KitchenAid.com](http://KitchenAid.com)).



**Du Verre** These hefty Rise pulls are die-cast from 95 percent postconsumer, recycled aluminum and have a matte black powder-coated finish (\$14 to \$95 each; [DuVerre.com](http://DuVerre.com)).



**Kenmore** The Elite Black Stainless Trio refrigerator's ebony finish complements stainless steel appliances—plus it hides grimy fingerprints (\$3,300; [Kenmore.com/blackstainless](http://Kenmore.com/blackstainless)).



**Kallista** Designer Bill Sofield's chic Jeton vanity is made of Macassar ebony veneer and Nero Marquina Spanish marble with black nickel fixtures (as shown, \$15,125; [Kallista.com](http://Kallista.com)).



**Samuel Heath** Its masculine Xenos Black solid-brass three-hole basin mixer is meticulously hand polished and plated in up to 34 individual processes (\$1,715; [Samuel-Heath.com](http://Samuel-Heath.com)).



**Scavolini** The Italian company's black glass Scenery kitchen melds style and ecological awareness with a body of FSC-certified postconsumer wood (price on request; [Scavolini.com](http://Scavolini.com)).



**Duravit** The Starck K ceramic kitchen sink by Philippe Starck has a large draining area, with room for everything from trays to cutting boards (35½" x 20½", \$1,785; [Duravit.us](http://Duravit.us)).



**Bosch** Its 36-inch induction cooktop features AutoChef, a sensor that calibrates the exact amount of energy needed for consistent cooking heat (\$3,300; [BoschAppliances.com](http://BoschAppliances.com)).



**LaCava** Introduce shimmer to the bath with the Martini cabinet, which has a low-VOC, rich black lacquer finish and is adorned with gleaming cross handle pulls (\$5,880; [LaCava.com](http://LaCava.com)).



**CaesarStone** The sand-blasted surface of Motivo Crocodile quartz looks like an embossed-leather handbag (\$100 to \$150/sq. ft. install; [CaesarStoneUS.com](http://CaesarStoneUS.com)).



**Blanco** Winner of the prestigious Red Dot award, the dramatic 46-inch-wide Flow sink becomes the focal point of any kitchen. Gently graded drain boards flank the sink and emphasize its architectural sensibility. The finely crafted steel is just a half-inch thick, creating the illusion of a flush-mount installation (\$4,200; BlancoAmerica.com).

**Good Ideas** Smart products emphasize energy and water savings as well as efficient organization. They also provide easy and inexpensive upgrades. Manufacturers have put new technology to work in pointed and thoughtful ways to save resources and time. Reflecting a renewed emphasis on home entertaining, hostess-helpful products open up constricted layouts, hide clutter and present flexible options for food prep and storage.



**Robern** The UpWY cabinet opens skyward to take advantage of unused wall space. The interior has six power outlets and room for a plasma TV (36" h x 27" w x 7 1/2" d, \$2,350; Robern.com).



**GE** Two side-by-side ovens in the caterer-sized Monogram 48-inch professional range accommodate three 18" x 26" trays, as well as two 9" x 13" baking dishes (\$10,750; Monogram.com).



**Electrolux** Its Icon French door refrigerator has a hostess-friendly Perfect Temp drawer with 12 settings that make appetizer and drink service a snap (\$3,800; ElectroluxIcon.com).



**Miele** Mix and match individual CombSet units to create a custom cooking surface. The line now boasts an induction cooktop and a teppanyaki grill (from \$1,000; Miele.com).



**JennAir** An easy upgrade, the duct-free Downdraft 30-inch gas cooktop doesn't require a major renovation to install and is an appealing option for kitchen islands (\$1,700; Jennair.com).



**SieMatic** Its MultiMatic system includes accessories like these bowed racks for its wine cabinet. Their curves let them hold a variable number of bottles (\$785 as shown; SieMatic.com).



**Wolf** A great warming drawer and convenient microwave, the Drawer oven fits under the counter or onto a wall (23 1/2" w x 15 1/2" h x 23 1/2" d, \$1,400; WolfAppliance.com).



**Brizo** The Venuto pull-down kitchen faucet with SmartTouch allows users to turn the faucet on and off by tapping anywhere on the handle or spout (chrome, \$800; Brizo.com).



**LG's** SteamWasher, here in Graphite Steel, has four drum movements—rolling, stepping, swinging and scrubbing—that pinpoint stains and reduce noise and vibration (\$1,500; LG.com).



**Gaggenau** A mere 13 1/2 inches deep, the slim CE 450 36-inch four-burner electric cooktop makes access easy by lining up elements lengthwise (\$2,800; Gaggenau-USA.com).

**Modern Luxuries** New opulent patterns, warm gold and bronze finishes, rich materials and appealing curves can turn the bathroom and the kitchen into places for self-expression and a bit of indulgence. Sculptural faucets and fixtures, like jewelry for the room, lend artistic flair. Surfaces gleam and lighting plays a key role, with the warmth of natural flames setting a seductive and relaxing mood.



**Napoleon** Add romance to the bath—or any room in the house—with the 50-inch (HD50 Linear High Definition) gas fireplace. It has a heat-radiating glass enclosure and a crystalline ember bed that glows even when the flame is turned off (approx. \$5,000; NapoleonFireplaces.com).



**Elkay** This company enlivens its stainless steel sinks by offering 12 patterns on several of its classic shapes (shown, Bamboo on the Azona 16" d sink, \$600 to \$950; ElkayUSA.com).



**Dornbracht** The Supernova bath spout, with its complex angles and cascading water stream, looks like a piece of sculpture (polished chrome, \$2,700; Dornbracht.com).



**Rocky Mountain Hardware** The glamorous Mod sconce has a sustainable edge—it's made from recycled bronze and has an LED option (\$1,725; RockyMountainHardware.com).



**Ann Sacks** For the company's first foray into bath accessories, Tony Davin designed a waste basket, vase, soap dish, tray and cup in 24K gold leaf and glass (\$100 to \$450; AnnSacks.com).



**Eldorado Stone** Comprised of a set of easy-to-install stone veneers, the CandleWall creates a blissful bathing atmosphere (\$30 to \$50/sq. ft. installed; EldoradoStone.com).



**Sherie Wagner** Interior star Vicente Wolf lends his hand to a collection of bathroom fixtures and accessories. Shown: Berry door knob (satin nickel, \$550; SherieWagner.com).



**Symmons** The Bolina 8-inch spread lav faucet has a velvety brushed-bronze finish and elegantly curving handles and spout, adding a grace note to the bath (\$575; Symmons.com).



**Viking** its 36-inch Designer Series chimney wall hood, in stainless steel with luminous 8mm-thick glass, is virtually seamless, with no visible screws (\$1,800; VikingRange.com).

**Hot Tubs** As bathrooms turn into spaces for living and relaxing, stand-alone tubs have become the focal point. These statement pieces come in a range of materials, from exotic marble to resplendent glass. Oversize and spacious, the vessels put less emphasis on high-tech jets and massage options and more on blissful soaking to bring calm to busy lives.



**Toto** Made of a lustrous epoxy resin, the Neorest II bathtub pulses softly with colored LED lighting for the ultimate experience in blissed-out bathing (\$13,500; TotoUSA.com).

**Green Team** Green design continues to gain ground. For kitchens, sustainable bamboo is a top choice for cabinets and surfaces. And post-consumer, recycled materials score big in sleek countertops with improved strength. Also on offer, sustainably harvested woods and low-VOC finishes and adhesives. In bathrooms, low-flow faucets and toilets look to improve water savings.



**Teragren** Its bamboo countertops provide a bacteria-resistant, formaldehyde-free surface pretreated with a food-safe mineral oil/beeswax finish (\$26 to \$32/sq. ft.; Teragren.com).



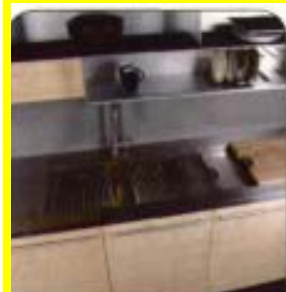
**Moen** Envi Eco-Performance Rainshower saves water but doesn't compromise on luxury—the head expands to 100 nozzles for an about-drench (brushed nickel, \$300; Moen.com).



**Novellini** The stylish Cristal bathtub is good for the planet—it's made of recyclable aluminum, zero-impact-emissions glass and ABS plastic (78" l x 30" w, \$14,200; Novellini.com).



**Burgbad** Made from mineral-cast and natural stone, the Pi bathing pool offers a unique rounded shape for dipping and soaking (75" l x 40" w x 21" d, \$12,125; Burgbad.com).



**Tomasa** Elements, a bamboo and aluminum kitchen by Fu Tung Cheng, has formaldehyde-free cabinets and FSC-certified bamboo veneer (about \$500 to \$800/sq. ft.; ChengDesign.com).



**Lutron** A leader in light control, its energy-saving Maestro dimmer with occupancy sensor detects fine motions and turns the lights off when the room is empty (\$55; Lutron.com).



**Stone Forest** Carved from a single block of Carrara marble, the Ruba bathtub is a stand-alone piece of art weighing 2,800 pounds (68" l x 40" w x 24" h, \$23,500; StoneForest.com).



**Kaldewei** Nearly 80 inches long and 40 inches wide, the Bassino steel enamel tub allows a bather to float freely and experience almost complete weightlessness (\$6,420; Kaldewei.com).



**Cosentino** The Eco countertop is made of 75 percent post-consumer, recycled raw material and is bonded with a urea-based resin (\$68 to \$118/sq. ft.; EcoByCosentino.com).



**Atlantis** Want a kitchen in your backyard? This company's new bamboo outdoor cabinets will help you rack up LEED points (from \$3,000; OutdoorKitchensByAtlantis.com).