What's Hot

Special Report "Kitchen"

If Cabinets Could Speak, What would yours say?
Ideas to pull off a great looking,
great using kitchen...right at your fingertips!

The World’s Only Underwater Spa in the Maldives,
given a new lease of life
by Richard Hywel Evans

A zestful, colourfully well-designed holiday home.....
truly EVERYONE'S INSPIRATION,
by Ghislaine Viñas

Field Trip: The Milan Fair 2008
If you can't be there, we'll bring it to you!
The first 15 in the world's eminent exhibition on furnishing comes exclusively your way
News on Hues K/BIS 2008

By Denise Turner, ASID, CD, CGP, Contributing Colour Editor

Earth inspired neutrals of browns, grey and greens were the primary colors at K/BIS. Either standing alone or supporting brighter hues, these earthy and neutral shades can add texture and pattern with an array of shadows and light.

About 900 exhibitors and more than 52,000 national and international industry professionals participated in the annual Kitchen/Bath Industry Show in Chicago the second weekend in April. K/BIS is the world's largest international trade event dedicated to the kitchen and bath industry.

The showroom space with its raised rims and non-fussy hardware complements the simple lines of Orchant, Zaz, and Scandinavian designs and paints naturally with products from the growing wood-influenced movement. With the sleek, modernity and streamlined lines, consumers are seeking to simplify. They are surrounding themselves with finishes in safe colors that are soft, calming, and comfortable. This style continues to gain in popularity it is emulated by young consumers to the baby boomers.

Case Goods

While espresso dominated the wood finishes of last year's show, warm mahogany brown is the color to watch. Cherry remains the favorite wood. Quarter sawn and wile woods are growing in popularity. There is a sense of refinement in finishes; they are becoming smoother and less detailed than in recent years. Cerulean, the pastel blue color, has seen a surge in popularity and has become part of the classic style. As a color trend, espresso is being replaced by grey or black and here, it's showing up as a rich stain. At a counter trend, white-washed wood and multiple layers of white paint continues.

Natural Stone & Solid Surfaces

In keeping with the smooth, clean look in wood finishes, granite and other solid surfaces with less movement were prevalent. Honed, etched and super-smooth finishes were prominent in ceramic, solid surfaces and stone. Granite with less movement continues its popularity. In granite, surfaces were more subdued, no colors being paired with marble. Distressed or textured finishes in the marble family to create a tone-on-tone scheme.

While one side of the trend leans toward subtle hues of tone-on-tone, the countertop is towards rich tones. Gaming and stone have taken on textured effects and misty surfaces feature embossed textures.

Metals

Stainless continues to be the quintessential finish for ranges, refrigerators, ovens and ventilation. Many manufacturers and fabricators have introduced nickel, brushed or rough to their lines.

While one side of the trend leans towards contemporary lines and refined luxury, the other continues to take on more traditional colors and antique finish. Oil rubbed bronze that has been so popular recently is giving way to lighter bronze or copper.
Some interesting products that were on display at K/BIS

LED (light-emitting diode) with its great new light source has the ability to emit a crystal clear, full color spectrum and is being incorporated into every product imaginable. Although color was sparse, a few unique products stood out.

Chroma Therapy has been used for centuries for its profound holistic powers. In fact, Hippocrates (the Father of Western Medicine) incorporated Chroma and Aroma Therapy into his practice. Mr. Steam and Hansa have perfected the ancient healing arts of Chroma Therapy by harnessing the holistic powers of the rainbow. Each features high performance LEDs that cover the entire spectrum for an uplifting or relaxing shower experience.

1. Mr. Steam integrated chroma and aroma therapy in their ChromaSteam shower with its specially formulated essences, which generated much of the buzz at the show.

2. Hansa integrated chroma therapy in their HansaSteam shower and HansaSteam 4-hand shower.

3. Cifial expands its already impressive lavatory faucet portfolio with the reintroduction of the catastrophic Revere.6-Spout Sanwa, that's a study in form and function. The series is available in eight finishes which includes three living finishes ranging from distressed bronze, rough bronze to weathered.

4. Cifial's new lavatory faucet in rough nickel finish is a stunner.

5. HANGA products were only available in chrome and now the entire line of bath and kitchen faucets will be available in brushed nickel.

6. Motado Arts' porcelain kitchen ventilation with the reincarnation of several American works of art. The hand-painted hood is inspired by renowned American artist Andy Warhol. These works are produced using ornamental pressed metal bent over a heavy gauge steel frame.

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