

ids

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News on Hues K/BIS 2008

By Denise Turner, ASID, CID, CMG, Contributing Colour Editor



Earth inspired neutrals of browns, grays and greens were the primary colors at K/BIS. Either standing alone or supporting brighter hues, these chic and luxurious subtle colors gave focus to form, texture and pattern with interplay of shadows and light.

About 930 exhibitors and more than 64,000 national and international industry professionals crowded in the annual Kitchen/Bath Industry Show in Chicago the second week-end in April. K/BIS is the world's largest international trade event dedicated to the kitchen and bath industry.

The Modern style with its refined lines and non-fussy hardware complements the simple lines of Craftsman, Zen, and Scandinavian decors and pairs naturally with products from the growing eco-friendly movement. With the down economy and stressful times, consumers are seeking to simplify. They are surrounding themselves with finishes in safe colors that are soft, sumptuous and comfortable. This style continues to gain in popularity; it is embraced by young consumers to the baby boomers.

Case Goods

While espresso dominated the wood finishes of last year's show, warm medium brown is the color this year. Cherry remains the favorite wood. Quarter sawn and exotic woods are gaining in popularity. There is a sense of refinement in finishes; they are becoming smoother and less distressed than in recent years. Simple, flat panel, clean door styles are emerging as part of the Modern style. As in color trends, espresso is being replaced by gray or black and here, it's showing up as black cabinets. As a counter-trend, white-washed wood and multiple layers of white were prevalent.

Natural Stone & Solid Surfaces

In keeping with the refinement shown in wood finishes, granites and other solid surfaces with less movement were prevalent. Honed, flamed and burnished finishes were prominent in ceramic, solid surfaces and stone; granites with less movement continues its popularity. In general, surfaces were more layered; flat colors being paired with metallic, pearlescent or sparkling finishes in the same family to create a tone-on-tone scheme.

While one side of the trend leans toward subtle hues of tone on tone, the counter-trend is towards sparkling luxury. Glass and stone have taken on frosted effects and many surfaces feature embedded metallics.

Metals

Stainless continues to be the quintessential finish for ranges, refrigerators, ovens and ventilation. Many hardware and faucet manufacturers introduced Nickel, brushed or rough to their lines.

While one side of the trend continues its sleek contemporary lines and refined luxury, the other continues to take on its hand-crafted, authentic feel in hammered oxidized 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 small area light source has the ability to emit a crystal clear, full color spectrum and is being incorporated into every product imaginable. Although color was scarce, 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 Hansacolourshower and Hansaclear lux hand shower.
3. Cifal expands its already impressive lavatory faucet portfolio with the introduction of the statuesque Brookhaven L-Spout Series that's a study in form and function. The series is available in eight finishes which include three living finishes ranging from distressed bronze, rough bronze to weathered.
4. Cifal's new lavatory faucet in rough nickel finish is a stunner!



5. HANSA products were only available in chrome and now the entire line of bath and kitchen faucets will be available in brushed nickel.
6. Metallo Arts redefines kitchen ventilation with the reincarnation of several American works of art. This 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.

