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Kitchen & Bath design news



Top Products

KBDN looks at the 20 most-asked-about products
for 2011 as decided by reader requests

COVER STORY:

Great Designs Help
Firm Double Profits

Survey Looks at
Designers' Tech
Preferences

Simple Designs,
Superior Function
Mark Hardware

1 | Born out of a partnership between Reveal Designs and the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, the Taliesin Design Hardware Collection now includes the new Series 632, which features geometric shapes that integrate wood and metal. The pulls are available in 1.25", 3.75" and 7", and are available in beech, walnut, oil-rubbed bronze and stainless steel.
Circle No. 155 on Product Card



Simple Accents

By Elizabeth Richards

Clean designs that bring a cohesive look to a room and technologies that streamline functionality are top trends in decorative and functional hardware.

While hardware may not be the first thing a designer thinks about when beginning a kitchen or bath project, it is an integral component to the look of the finished product – and the functionality of the space.

Hardware is also the finishing touch that unifies the space, according to manufacturers recently surveyed by *KBDN*. “[Hardware] is the last piece of detail that can pull everything together,” says Warren Ramsland, president of Top Knobs, Inc. in Hillsborough, NJ.

Daniel Tripp, product marketing manager for Hafele America Co. based in Archdale, NC, agrees: “Hardware within a kitchen or bath often is a functional accent. The hardware needs to both serve the intended purpose and complement the room.”

Doug Mockett, founder and CEO of Doug Mockett & Co. in Manhattan Beach, CA, notes, “The hardware serves to complement the furniture or cabinetry without becoming a distraction. A truly effective piece of hardware will not go unnoticed, but will blend seamlessly with the overall design.”

Stacey Singer, general manager for Alno in Sylmar,

CA, concurs: “It’s time to say goodbye to the gimmicky hardware. Consumers are looking for enduring, classic styles, whether they are contemporary or traditional.” She adds that coordinating appliance and larger pulls with cabinet knob designs is a growing trend.

Hardware can also play a major role in personalizing a design, according to Kevin Dewald, marketing and product manager for Keeler Hardware, a brand of Grandville, MI-based Belwith Products LLC. “From a decorative standpoint, the hardware will express homeowners’ personality and taste, an expression of their inner self.” Of course, hardware must also meet the functional needs of the homeowner, he adds, which is where designers must consider size and scale to determine the best choices.

CLEAN AND SIMPLE

Trends are moving away from complex styles toward a cleaner look, manufacturers say, with transitional and contemporary designs leading over traditional.

“Customers are also looking for clean and simple designs,” says Ramsland.



2 | Glace Yar Stained Glass Design now offers the Doublet cabinet knob. A domed checkerboard crystal is placed atop a hand-cut base of stained glass. The Doublet is available in a variety of glass colors and styles.
Circle No. 156 on Product Card



3 | Fersa Hardware’s more than 4,000 handcrafted decorative models are reproductions of period hardware made using ancient methods. The two-tone collection is one of Fersa’s many offerings.
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4 | Legacy Crystal Knobs and Pulls from Atlas Homewares feature crystals artistically inset. A square and round knob are featured in the collection, as are a 4" and 6" pull, and a 3.75" and 5.75" bracelet pull.
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5 | The Series 3 Collection from Du Verre Hardware was designed by renowned furniture and lighting designer Scot Laughton. Like all of the company’s hardware, the collection is made from recycled aluminum.
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