

Show-Stopping Kitchen and Bath Trends

By Chelsie Butler

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Recently, a few of *KBB's* Editorial Advisory Board members attended Dwell on Design, which was held in Los Angeles from June 24-16. The three-day exhibition and conference was held at the Los Angeles Convention Center and featured a variety of kitchen and bath exhibitors, product demos and educational seminars for both the trade and the consumer.

Two of *KBB's* most active board members – Mike Hetherman, CKD, president and CEO of Ontario-based Willis; and Paula Kennedy, CMKBD, CAPS, a designer with Timeless Kitchen Design in the Seattle area – scoured the show floor for innovative trends in the kitchen and bath industry.

Paula's notable trends included:

- Brass and brighter tones (above)
- Polished metal and matte black finishes on faucets
- Customization is becoming expected, demanded. Millennials and more affluent generations are driving it, and the more industries that offer it – automobile, technology – the more people assume it is available in every industry. And they don't expect it to cost twice as much.
- One-person smaller freestanding soaking tubs
- Downsizing movement calling for multi-functional storage (below)

Hetherman also noted the resurgence of matte finishes, as well as raw materials.

Other K&B trends seen at Dwell included:

- Atypical shapes for fixtures
- Black and white AND color
- Dome-shaped and rounded sinks
- Innovative use of materials
- Refrigeration in unexpected places (below)

Be on the lookout for these and other innovative trends that will be present at KBIS 2017, which will take place from Jan. 10-12, 2017, in Orlando.



The Avalon tub from Native Trails is made of NativeStone, a combination of natural jute fiber and cement, and is available in 62- and 72-in. sizes. Its deep interior features thick walls for ample insulation, and each unit is hand formed, polished, finished and sealed. Avalon 62 is \$7,495, and the 72-in. model is \$8,795. Both are available in ash, slate and pearl finishes. According to designer Paula Kennedy, this is a serious game changer for the industry.