

Do smart appliances judge us?

It's a battle to set personal insecurities aside while perusing new items for the kitchen and bath

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We know that copper bracelets really don't cure anything, but we couldn't help but wonder what aches and pains a copper bathtub might chase away. It certainly looks grand. And no wonder — we learned from Native Trails that copper tubs were the choice of mid-18th-century French monarchs, who had them rolled into their rooms on casters and filled by servants with water that had been heated over an open flame. Native Trails has artisan-made tubs forged from high-quality recycled copper in antique copper, polished copper and brushed nickel finishes.

Copper also dresses up a kitchen when paired with a black finish in a fridge from True Refrigeration — the look is très chic. It's part of the company's new custom line, which includes a choice of colors (antique white, matte black and gloss black), as well as hardware, which also includes brass and chrome options. We were impressed with True's fridges — some have sturdy stainless steel bins, and others have glass fronts with LED lighting that put contents on display. (Please note: One doesn't keep sloppy General Tso's chicken leftovers in glass-front fridges.)

We also warmed to three new finishes from Fantini for faucets — a burnished dark grey, warm copper bronze and rose gold. The finishes use a treatment borrowed from the biomedical field that eliminates impurities.

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