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What's Hot for Kitchens and Baths

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Where can you find an oven you can turn on with your cell phone, a toilet paper holder that doubles as an iPod® docking station and a foot pedal for hands free toilet flushing? Chicago's McCormick Place Convention Center, the site of the 2006 Kitchen/Bath Industry Show & Conference. Over 50,000 conference attendees had an opportunity to walk seven miles of carpeted isles crisscrossing 600,000 square feet of display space occupied by more than 900 exhibitors.

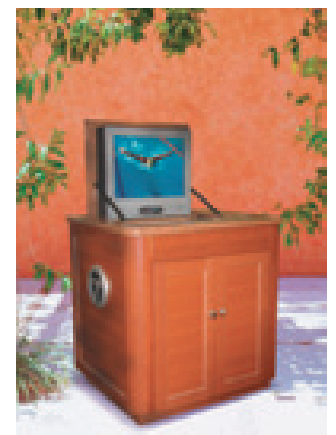
Here is a run down of the latest and greatest.

For the multi-tasker. The Sunshower (www.prosunshower.com) is an

integrated vertical tanning bar that is built into a wall in your shower. This unit allows you to safely tan while showering in the comfort of your own home. A great idea for individuals who suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder – if you can handle the \$10,000 price

Showers with tanning bars built-in and outdoor entertainment units are two of the new items featured at the show.

tag. For something a bit more affordable, Atech Flash Technologies' Icarta iPod® player dock and bath ►



tissue holder allows you to charge or play your ipod from the comfort of your... toilet paper holder. Suggested list price is \$99 and is available online at www.atechflash.com.

Drawers are not just for dish towels any more. Today's kitchen appliance manufacturers and consumers are embracing the ergonomics of drawers. You can find refrigerator drawers (\$3,100+) wine cooler drawers (\$3,000+), freezer drawers (\$3,200+), dishwasher drawers (\$1,400+), microwave drawers (\$800+) and warming drawers (\$1,000+) for keeping food warm in a kitchen or for warming towels in a bathroom. These products are available from several manufacturers including Dacor, Fisher Paykel, Gaggenau, Kitchen Aid, Miele, Sharp, Sub Zero, Thermador, U-Line, Viking, and Wolf and are on display at Nilsen's Appliances in Silverdale and Schmidt's Appliances on Bainbridge Island.

You can throw away those take out menus. It will take you less time to cook a perfectly roasted four-pound chicken in a high speed oven than it takes you to drive to and from the local Thai take out joint. It's true, you can have a delectable chicken dinner ready in roughly 20

minutes with a speed cook oven. Built-in units are available from Kitchen Aid, Miele, Sharp, Thermador, TMIO, Turbo Chef and other manufacturers. As if speed cooking technology is not enough, TMIO's Connect Io™ Intelligent Oven™ lets you cool, connect and cook pre-assembled meals so that all you have to do when you get home is set the table. This double oven, with refrigeration capabilities, keeps food chilled until you call it from your cell phone and turn it on. It cooks your dinner to perfection while you drive home from the office. If the built-in meat probe is in use, the oven will automatically turn itself off when the meat has reached the recommended internal temperature. Just think, your kids can arrive home from school to fresh baked cookies even if you are still at work!

Is that a dresser or a vanity? One of the hottest trends in bathrooms today is the free-



Check out the Intelligent Oven. A double oven with refrigeration capabilities.

standing furnituresque vanity. These pieces run a wide style gamut from the bead board Cottage vanity to the sleek edgy contemporary Tribeca unit from Fairmont Designs (www.fairmontdesigns.com) available at Wyland Interior Design in Poulsbo. ➤



Interested in conserving water? Take your pick of these water saving water closet fixtures: the dual flush toilet, the bidet or washlet and/or the urinal. Sales are trending up not only with the eco-friendly crowd but also the senior crowd because of increased ease of use over standard toilets. Dual flush toilets have a dual flushing mechanism, usually two tandem buttons and generally use .09-1.2 gallons of water for flushing liquid waste and 1.2-1.6 gallons for flushing solid waste. Bidets and washlets (an accessory toilet seat with built-in bidet functionality that can be retrofitted to most models of commodes) allow people to “freshen up” by using only a small amount of water — unlike a shower which uses an average of 25 gallons as well as assisting individuals with limited dexterity maintain proper hygiene. Kohler, Toto,



flushing mechanism. It retrofits to standard toilets in minutes and lists for \$29.95. Order online at www.footflush.com (soon to be available at Linens N Things).

Glass is everywhere — it is the hottest material in today’s kitchens and baths. You’ll see it in kitchen and bathroom counters, recycled glass tiles in showers and back splashes, glass vessel sinks (with or without live gold fish) and yes, glass block is back and better than ever.



Recess the connection for your clothes dryer, refrigerator, TV, water and gas appliances.

Bemis and Brondell each offer either full bidet and/or washlet models.

Believe it or not, residential installations of urinals is on the rise due to their water saving attributes. Most of the items mentioned here are available from either Ferguson’s (Port Orchard/Poulsbo) or Keller Supply (Bremerton). If your family’s idea of water conservation is not flushing, try the Footflush® hands-free foot pedal

Where is Noah when you need him? You’ll think you need an arc when you step into the shower of today with its downpour of H₂O from multiple shower heads, body strays, shower tiles and/or steam jets. You can find these items on display from Kohler, Moen, Grohe, Delta and others at Ferguson’s or Keller Supply.

Who couldn’t use another four inches? With the DBX1000 from Construction Solutions (www.dryersolutions.com) you can recess the connection for your clothes



dryer into the stud wall for a perfectly flush installation of your dryer unit. This product can also be used for plasma TV connections, refrigerator water connections, gas appliance connections and more! Available at Ferguson’s in Poulsbo and Port Orchard. ➤



The French door refrigerator

All steamed up. Steam jets in your bathroom can be a source of ultimate relaxation but steam in your kitchen translates into healthy cooking and succulent meals. Steam can be found in built-in wall ovens from Gaggenau, Kitchen Aid (early 2007), Miele and Sharp (early 2007), counter-top units from Sharp and as part of a free standing range by Kitchen Aid. You can find some of units on display at Nielsen's Appliance and Schmidt's Appliance.

When is three not a crowd? When you are talking about the newest trend in refrigeration — the trio, or French door refrigerator. These refrigerators are configured with a bottom-mount freezer below side-by-side refrigerator doors. It is the best of all worlds with the items you use most at eye level on nice, wide continuous shelves in the refrigerator compartment and the freezer down below. Additionally, the refrigerator can be put near a doorway or island because the shallow door swing will not inhibit the flow of traffic. Several manufacturers offer a 36-inch-wide counter depth model with or without ice in the door, with a total capacity of roughly 19 cubic feet. Kitchen Aid has just released a 42-inch model that has a total capacity of 22.7 cubic feet (no ice/water in the door). Jenn Air has come out with a beautiful new bronze finish for its model, Dacor just introduced a trio with a glass front that

comes in five colors, and Thermador and Gaggenau both have a trio with interior shelves that can be adjusted with the touch of a button.

Well designed bathrooms and kitchens, utilizing today's technologically advanced fixtures and appliances, can actually enhance quality of life by providing consumers with the ultimate in convenience and low maintenance, thus increasing time spent with family and friends.

(Editor's Note: Molly Erin McCabe, AKBD owner is the principal designer of A Kitchen That Works™, designing residential spaces that work including kitchens, baths, laundry rooms and custom entertainment centers. She is a member of the National Kitchen and Bath Association and the Home Builders Association of Kitsap County. Reach her at molly@akitchenthatworks.com or 206.780-1906.)