

## Trends



**M**odern public and commercial washrooms are no longer a mundane space. With the growing demand, exposure to international brands and appreciation of good design and quality, premium bathroom products have seen an exponential growth. Architects and facility managers are now expected to provide designs that personalise washroom spaces. Therefore, contemporary bathrooms now integrate technology with minimalistic design, while their simple layout weeds out clutter. Secondly, these spaces enable more functionality, so that users feel in control and can easily and practically manage the space. Commercial bathrooms are evolving from just being a cleaning area to a place one can relax, restyle and get ready to move into the crowd again. To give a metropolitan look to the

bathrooms, not compromising on functionality, fittings with cross-generation design and appealing aesthetics are employed. Even though one has a clear idea of the design, during the process of product selection the latest and updated products should not be always be the ones to be considered - durability, technology and material quality are important factors to be considered.

"Designing interiors for commercial properties is a



Emanuela Tavolini, director of sales, Europe, Graff.



The aerator systems in Graff's Solar collection can reduce the water flow from 11 to seven litres per minute, with considerable energy saving.



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Jaquar Group's Master product portfolio that accentuates clean lines.



iFlush, the revolutionary flushing mechanism by Jaquar can be installed directly in the regular pipeline.

complex task. While the focus is primarily on smart and efficient utilisation of space, fittings and fixture need be ergonomically designed, easy to install and cost-effective. Solutions for commercial spaces primarily need to be sturdy, space efficient and water efficient too," explains Rajesh Mehra, chairman and founder, Jaquar Group.

### Aiming to conserve

Gautam Ghosal, managing director, Schell, adds that technology plays an important role in supporting these parameters by minimising

serviceable components; this helps in performance, low maintenance and easy serviceability. Sustainable usage is also one of the most defining factors that comes in play while designing and selecting products for commercial public washrooms.

Automation features and intelligent add-ons, too, have transformed this space into a sophisticated one that also renders responsible usage. Mehra adds, "The advanced range of bathroom solutions in the commercial space not only has luxury, style and



Rajesh Mehra, chairman and founder, Jaquar Group

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elegance but also focuses on innovative technologies to ensure efficient use of resources and ergonomically convenient designs."

Another brand that also works towards this cause is Graff. The brand provides an option to fix water-saving aerators across all its washbasin faucets. The Solar collection aerator, for example, can reduce the water flow from 11 to seven litres per minute, with considerable energy saving.

### High on efficiency

With technology evolving at every stage, the latest in the market are products with electricity-free operation, purely mechanical, working at par with digital technology. For example, push-button technology ensures user safety and ease of use, and, at the same time, suits all bathroom designs and environments. Concealed plastic cisterns, framed concealed cisterns, vanity washbasins and self-cleaning fittings are products for which demand is booming as emphasis on world-class, luxurious bathrooms grows in Indian commercial properties.

A product that works for many high level corporate houses is the Inspira In-wash range from Roca – an electronic toilet with minimalistic design and intuitive technology. Its features include night light, adjustable water temperature, user detection and self-cleaning nozzle, among many others.

Commenting on the novelty offering from the brand, KE Ranganathan, managing director, Roca Bathrooms Products, says "Technology, innovation and luxury are at constant evolution to create products that meet individual demands and are in-sync with current trends. The range offers a wide array of products that help transform functional bathrooms into luxurious and opulent spaces."

In 2018, Graff introduced a full programme of new bath fixtures in



The newly launched Gap series by Roca.



Inspira basins by Roca are manufactured with Fineceramic- a new, high quality material, making them easy to clean, 40% lighter and 30% more resistant than the conventional basins



KE Ranganathan, MD, Roca Bathrooms Products.

state-of-the-art casting technology and artisanal processes," elaborates Emanuela Tavolini, director of sales Europe, Graff

With a plethora of choices available, it is the budget that helps one narrow down the selection of products.

**Cost and durability**

Fixtures and fittings account for a high cost percentage in washrooms. Expense for fixtures and fittings vary depending on the brand, type of materials and the array of products one selects. Installation accounts for nearly a quarter of the total cost because the installation work in a bathroom tends to be intricate (for example: tile setting, piping, etc).

Keeping the maintenance and durability factor in mind, Renu Misra, managing director, Grohe, talks about the brand's StarLight

Sleekstone, a composite material that combines dolomitic stone with a unique resin. "Sleek-Stone features a warm-to-touch feel paired with a unique and luxurious smoothness with durable properties that make its surfaces easy to clean and require minimal maintenance. Each product is crafted using a combination of