

# Product Trend Report

The re-designed Tubo faucet collection from **Victoria + Albert** is formed by a single, gently curved tube. The faucet can be paired with the egg-inspired Napoli 57 countertop vessel basin, which features a sleek, rimless design. Sinks are crafted of a durable ENGLISHCAST material, rich in volcanic limestone. Circle No. 166 on Product Card



Inspired by turn-of-the-century charm, the **Kohler Artifacts** bathroom faucet collection features a choice of three spouts and three handles, all available in five finishes. Rooted in Edwardian design, the classic collection also includes 15 accessories, including a tumbler, soap dispenser and toilet paper carriage. A configurator tool can be used on computers, tablets or mobile devices for visualization of how the spouts, handles and finishes interplay. Circle No. 167 on Product Card



**Dornbracht** is offering a new modular bath collection for the modern bath. The bath fixture, shown, features a streamlined design aesthetic and offers added functionality. The faucet has an extendable spout for easy hair washing, and the head of the faucet can be rotated upwards for mouth rinsing. Circle No. 168 on Product Card

Studio manager for Hansgrohe, based in Alpharetta, GA, believes, "Most consumers are still looking for simple, minimal and timeless designs, but they also want their fixtures to have a little pop." This may explain the "bling trend," which was highly evident at this year's KBIS.

Taft notes, "Perhaps the economic recovery has stimulated some people's desire to flash some bling, but regardless of the underlying reason, we have seen an uptick in specifications for both our 24K Satin Gold finish as well as our Satin Gold (PVD) finish." As he jokes, "Liberace may be dead, but gold is definitely not."

Crozier also took note of the "bling" at KBIS, including a number of crystal-studded faucets. However, he states, "We feel that's a more expensive, 'niche-y' look. The majority of the consumers we talk to are more interested in a cleaner design."

## MATERIALS & FINISHES

In sinks, a wealth of materials adds style and enhanced functionality to the bath, from classic vitreous china, glass and concrete to natural stone and quartz, warm, hand-hammered copper and entirely new materials that offer their own unique design aesthetic.

At the San Luis Obispo, CA-based Native Trails, Founder and CEO Naomi Neilson Howard notes, "Now more than ever people are looking for natural, warm materials to make their bath spaces feel like a welcoming and relaxing sanctuary. Texture is one way to achieve that, and we have noticed a significant spike in our hand-hammered

copper sinks, especially in our Brushed Nickel finish."

On the other hand, Gary Uhl, director of brand education for American Standard Brands based in Piscataway, NJ, says, "The market is still trending toward vitreous china sinks due to their durability, cleanability and flexibility in their design installation."

At Laufen, Korneluk says, "Elegant shapes and thinner silhouettes are becoming much more popular now, based on the ceramic technology that allows that kind of defined edging. Laufen's SaphirKeramik ceramic is a new recipe for ceramic design that enables us to create super-thin and precise edges that are stronger than traditional ceramics."

In faucet finishes, Chrome, Polished Nickel and Satin Nickel remain top sellers, though Rohl sees Tuscan Brass and English Bronze as popular finish choices in the bath. Additionally, he cites "new requests for un-lacquered 'living finish' brass and brushed gold," noting, "The design community is looking for variations on weathered decorative finishes."

Crozier sees Polished Nickel as a growing trend, stating, "It has a warmer tone than traditional bright Chrome finishes, and is the perfect choice for someone who may not like the brushed look."

Taft concurs: "Polished Nickel continues to grow as a more elegant finish than Chrome. Used strategically with contemporary design, Polished Nickel adds a warmer feel than Chrome, making the entire bath environment just a little more inviting and relaxation-inducing."

Drawing on the interest in simple, minimal designs with a timeless quality, **Hansgrohe** offers Axor's Urquiola faucet. The faucet handles are reminiscent of a bracelet or the Axor Starck Organic faucet, which looks sleek and fluid.

Circle No. 169 on Product Card



The **Moen Align** bath collection is available in Chrome and LifeShine Brushed Nickel finishes and features cylindrical geometric shapes. The wide array of lavatory faucets includes a single-handle, single-hole faucet; a single-handle, single-hole low-profile faucet; a vessel faucet and two-handle widespread platform. The faucets are flow-optimized and allow water to flow at 1.5 gallons per minute. Circle No. 170 on Product Card



**Villeroy & Boch's** Loop & Friends offers versatility in a bath sink with defined shapes. Round, square, oval and rectangle options are combined with choices of surface-mount, built-in or undermount versions. Circle No. 171 on Product Card



**Danze** has added the Logan Square Collection to its line of bath faucets. The sculpted set of lav faucets features a range of style choices, including single-handle, two-handle centerset, widespread and several shower options. All are available in Chrome and Brushed Nickel finishes. The faucets are WaterSense approved for water savings. Circle No. 173 on Product Card



**THG Paris** introduces the Nano Collection of bath faucets. Featuring a contemporary, sleek design, the Nano faucet is available with a choice of petite cross handles or lever handles. Nano is available in several finishes including Rhodium Silver, Nickel and Gold. Circle No. 174 on Product Card



Additions have been made to **Graff's** Ametis Collection of bath faucets, including a single-lever vessel lavatory faucet, widespread lavatory faucet, wall-mounted LED lavatory faucet (shown) and bidet faucet. In addition to Chrome, the collection is now available in a Black or White finish, with a matte texture and appearance resulting from the company's state-of-the-art powder coating process. Circle No. 175 on Product Card

**Toto's** Keane Faucet Collection melds modern fluidity with classic design elements for an elegant faucet suite that complements traditional, transitional and contemporary bath decors, according to the company. The faucet collection is available in either a widespread or single-lever option. Circle No. 172 on Product Card

