

Phil Reyes, product manager, hydrotherapy for Aquatic in Anaheim, CA, adds, "They' stark minimalist look that we' a blend between the two." looks, he says, they' the shower area work as it should. In another move to keep a clean look, he sees a trend toward hiding the drain – using a front or side drain so that it isn' but more a decorative piece.

Travis Rotelli, interior designer at the Kohler Design Center in Kohler, WI, adds that he' format tile. "keeping the grout clean and overall maintenance. Large-format tile doesn' the amount of grout lines, which means it' and quicker to clean."

ACCESSIBILITY AND CONVERSION

When creating a bathing area, the current and future needs of the homeowners drive decisions. Hirschhaut says, "have seen is that what was once driven by the age of the home has now shifted to the needs of the homeowner. It could be lifestyle or the stage of life, however, it is apparent that things are trending toward functional solutions in our acrylic bath systems."

ity in the shower and tub area, from grab bars and fold-down seats to shower seats and easy-access tub solutions.

Reyes adds that one of the major trends in showers is the need to reduce barriers and thresholds, as consumers become more aware of the difficulties of stepping into higher threshold showers as they age. This also applies to people with existing tub/shower combination units, he says, and often those units are being pulled out and replaced with shower units only.

Dave Wilson, director of marketing for Bathwraps by Liners Direct in Roselle, IL agrees. "er conversions,"

and hundreds of tubs each week with roomy, easy entry, safer showers with corner or bench seating and safety grab bars."

have for years, in the most dangerous room in the house – the bathroom – while entering and exiting for showering. Most families with kids over 10 haven' bath in years. So our certified installer network uses the existing tub space to fit a custom, roomy, low-threshold shower."

FULLY LOADED AND CUSTOMIZED

More than ever, showers and bathtubs are becoming a place to cleanse more than just the body. The addition of aromatherapy, chromatherapy and integrated sound systems creates an in-home spa that soothes the spirit, as well. "one' president of Hansgrohe North America, based in Alpharetta, GA. "the marketplace, consumers expect the same when it comes to the bath."

Larry Allen, CEO, managing director, Gessi USA in Anaheim, CA, agrees that recent trends in the luxury shower segment favor customization of the showering experience, with elements like body sprays, ceiling-mounted showerheads with multiple spray modes, and hand-held showers. "important part of the showering experience for clients. There is a significant emotional connection associated with creating an environment that meets the clients' also seen the size of showers increasing as clients incorporate his-and-her combined showers into the space.

Wheeler has seen a rise in his-and-her shower spaces as well, either in two separate spaces or within one shower area. Additionally, he sees a movement towards a " layout design for the bathroom. "cated to water and well-being,"

Customization also comes into play with products designed to increase accessibility.

Reyes says that, for Aquatic, customization has been im-

Hansgrohe is bringing its showerpipe must have' U.S. market, beginning with the Raindance Select Showerpipe. From Phoenix Design for Hansgrohe, this showerpipe features a shelf that doubles as a thermostat, integrated into its flattened metal silhouette. Blue and red markings indicate hot and cold, and the shelf remains a neutral temperature.

Circle No. 161 People love the look of f

on Product Card



The Grohe Retro-Fit Shower System can be used to upgrade any standard tub/shower installation. The shower system replaces the existing shower arm, and includes an additional handshower. Available in 2.5 and 2.0 gpm models, the system is available with all of Grohe' showerheads or hand showers. Circle No. 162 on Product Card



Graff' system is available in several configurations for a more personalized at-home spa experience. The Electronic System with Ceiling-Mounted Showerhead creates an intense central rainfall, and features an RGB LED color-changing effect controlled by a touch screen, and a USB port and speakers for portable music player connection. Circle No. 164 on Product Card



Inspired by the study of waterfalls and their surroundings, Brizo' collection sports ribbon spout architecture teamed with glass accents. Included in the collection are wall and ceiling mount raincan showerheads, Medium Flow TempAssure shower trims and Sensori High Flow Thermostatic shower trims. The showerheads are available in both a 6" 10" Circle No. 165 on Product Card



Jacló' shower in one contemporary unit. The horizontal position of the flat spout provides the rain shower; The Aquavolo Lumiere also includes a sound system that accommodates an MP3 player, as well as chromatherapy. Circle No. 163 on Product Card



Creating a shower with Guardian ShowerGuard glass allows maximum light to open up the space. Built to withstand harsh water conditions, ShowerGuard retained its cleanability in independent laboratory testing, notes the company. Circle No. 166 on Product Card

Danze continues to expand its offering in custom showers, with showerheads, handheld showers, body sprays and Sensori valve trim just a few of the components offered. New handheld options with a slide bar, such as the 5050 Versa Slide Bar shown, are among the elements available. Circle No. 168 on Product Card



Liners Direct has introduced a replacement shower pan that measures 32" for an additional 12" shower pan features a solid, three-wall flange, and is available in four colors, including alabaster white, quarry topaz, sandshell beige and platinum grey. Circle No. 167 on Product Card



square n rectangular rain