

OCTOBER 2019

KBBTHE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF **NKBA + KBIS**

2019 **KBB**
PRODUCT
INNOVATOR
AWARDS

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OCTOBER 2019

TOILETS/HARDWARE/CABINETS & STORAGE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF NKBA + KBIS



• **NKBA** STUDENT DESIGN
COMP WINNERS

• **STORAGE NEEDS** FOR
TODAY'S HOMEOWNER



KBB product innovator AWARDS 2019

Section by **Chelsie Butler**

ONE MAJOR INDUSTRY MOVEMENT took center stage with this year's award-winning products – design for health and wellness. This is such an important aspect to include in your clients' kitchens and baths, and a variety of products can fulfill this consumer demand, including body dryers for the bathroom, food gardens in the kitchen and a self-locking drawer for prescription medications.

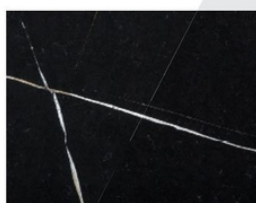
Another major desire of today's homeowner is personalization through customization – something to directly meet their household needs and bring out their individual style. Several products fulfilled that growing need as well, including modular outdoor cooking units and a plumbing fixture system that allows for custom engraving.

Other themes included smart technology, luxury design, sustainability, large-format surfaces and a variety of color and finishes for different design tastes.

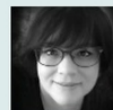
KBB is pleased to announce the winners of our 2019 Product Innovator Awards competition! After combing through multiple submissions, our rock-star panel of judges chose the best kitchen and bath products in our industry. Criteria included fulfilling market needs, technological advancements, aesthetic merit and – of course – innovation.

Our signature Kitchen and Bath Product of the Year winners were awarded in the mix, which also includes second and third places. We also gave honorable mentions in both categories.

Congrats to this year's winners!



Dawn M. DeLuca, AKBD, CLIPP, CAPS, is principal of NYC-based Dawn DeLuca on Design, a boutique firm and purveyor of fine cabinetry. Her firm's motto – Your Vision Is Our Passion – speaks to her primary goal for every project: Bring a client's vision to life with a beautiful, comfortable, safe and accessible space. With a strong focus on kitchen and bath, the firm also designs entire homes, outdoor living spaces and small to mid-size hospitality projects. DeLuca has been a professional speaker and educator since 1993, and she has also developed a training program for a national decorating and sales company. She was designated as the first Ambassador Member of The Living In Place Institute and has been a volunteer with the NKBA since 2006.



Scott Dresner possesses the rare combination of expertise in both construction and design. Having started his cabinetry company in his garage at age 20, he quickly grew it into a multi-million-dollar business. Dresner soon designed and built out new headquarters – a 15,000-sq.-ft., fully-automated cabinet factory and one of the largest in metropolitan Detroit. It is this type of passion, dedication and expertise that has afforded him the ability to maintain his position as an innovator in the cabinetry industry today and for the last 30 years. Dresner remains recognized in the industry as a pioneer who brought reasonably priced high-end Italian cabinetry to America, and he recently launched his own private-label cabinetry line fabricated in Italy.



Molly N Switzer, AKBD, launched Molly N Switzer Designs LLC in 2017, and she combines her love for product knowledge and industry relationship building by hosting independent designer training opportunities in her home. Switzer's design business specializes in residential interior design with an emphasis on kitchen and bath. She focuses on transparency, communication, honesty and trust in her business and everyday life. Switzer serves several roles, including contracted specifier to designer of entire home interiors – complete with construction plans, specifications and a trusted ear to bend during the most stressful of processes. She enjoys the opportunity to connect with student members of the design community as a point of contact to them as they start down the path of transitioning from student to professional.



From a young age, **Jack Bernstein** learned to swim against the tide. Hanging around his father's plumbing supply shop, he closely studied the industry and all its intricate facets. Through those early experiences, he gained an immense appreciation for his craft and quickly realized that design innovation can transform a room from functional to fabulous. Bernstein is an entrepreneur and design enthusiast at heart, so he opened his Kurrent Kitchen and Bath boutique showroom in Brooklyn in 2017 with one-of-a-kind products and modern technologies to connect with clients and manufacturers on a personal level. He is currently supplying a new 500-unit residential project in Brooklyn, as well as brownstone renovations and nursing homes, and he recently donated 10 toilets to a local synagogue.



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WINNER
KITCHEN PRODUCT
OF THE YEAR

HydroTap

by Zip Water

NOW YOU CAN HAVE one product that dispenses instant boiling, chilled or sparkling water. An undercounter command center powers the HydroTap, which offers PowerPulse, Direct DryChilling and ColdCore Sparkling water technologies.

According to David Ramia, Zip Water's vice president of business development, each type of water is dispensed via separate lines in the tap, which allows the user to switch instantly from one water format to another without having to heat chilled water or chill hot water. The company's research has shown that 80 percent of HydroTap users drink more water than they did before with the convenient system at their fingertips.

In terms of maintenance, the system can notify the homeowner when a filter or CO₂ canister needs to be replaced – something they can do on their own. The taps range in price from \$2,500 to \$4,500, and the HydroTap All-in-One Celsius can replace a kitchen faucet because it has a separate line for standard tap water. The other models can be used as a secondary tap or in a wet bar.

To suit a variety of design preferences, the tap is available in four different styles – traditional HydroTap Arc, contemporary HydroTap Cube, original HydroTap Classic and the over-the-sink HydroTap All-in-One Celsius. Seven available finishes include classic chrome, brushed chrome, nickel, brushed nickel, rose gold, brushed gold and matte black.

"Water filtration is something that should be important in every home, and so many clients these days love the concept of sparkling and instant boiling water – without three taps at their sink," said designer Molly Switzer, one of this year's judges.

The judges chose this as the Kitchen Product of the Year because of its ability to combine all three technologies into one unit.





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WINNER
BATHROOM PRODUCT
OF THE YEAR

Valiryo Body Dryer

by Valiryo Technologies S.L.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS are must-haves in today's bathrooms, which is where the hands-free Valiryo Body Dryer comes in handy. The \$2,200 unit offers 27 diffusers that blow warm air across the user's body, eliminating the need for drying off with damp towels in the bathroom and saving money on water usage for laundry needs.

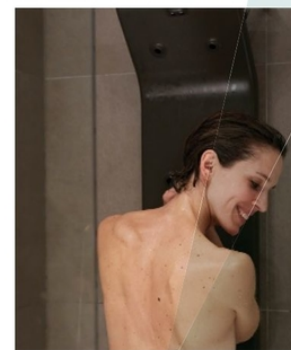
According to company CEO Ion Esandi, this unique drying experience, which can take less than five minutes, can relax the muscles, maintain the body's natural moisture and even dry post-workout sweat. It is a convenient drying option for customers with sensitive skin by avoiding towel friction and provides drying autonomy for customers with limited mobility.

The Body Dryer uses air propulsion for the efficient drying process, and it offers four different temperatures and intensities for up to 16 combinations. It also features a pressure sensor so it can turn on when someone is standing in front of it – or it can be manually activated.

The dryer offers clean lines and a thin S-shape that blends in with most showers, and its modern design can be color customized to match any space. Antimicrobial silver ions prevent the growth of bacteria, adding to the product's hygienic attributes.

"The Valiryo Body Dryer provides an eco-friendly, innovative alternative to towel drying with a pleasurable air massage experience," said Esandi. "It is a practical and spa-style technology within everyone's reach that adds enjoyment and comfort to your life."

This year's judges chose this as the Bathroom Product of the Year for its out-of-the-box innovation and its eco-friendly properties.



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KITCHEN **2ND**



ELEMENTS by TECNO

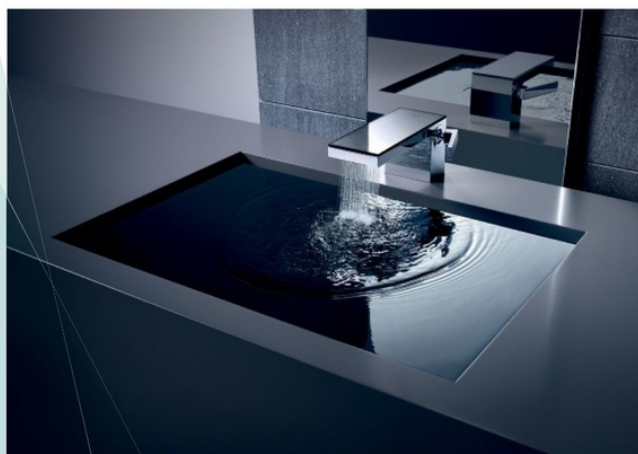
by Brown Jordan Outdoor Kitchens

THIS OUTDOOR OFFERING is a collaboration between Dekton by Cosentino and architect and designer Daniel Germani and offers homeowners the stylish, furniture-inspired look of what they use inside with the durability to be used outside. The collection is offered in modules so it can be used in any size footprint, and it features a frameless European design with a durable powder-coated finish in a variety of solid colors and wood grains, as well as Dekton by Cosentino countertops.

The range in price for ELEMENTS by TECNO is \$1,000 to \$1,400 per linear foot for the cabinetry, which includes integrated pulls and dual-access doors. It is available as a semi-custom line with a variety of styles and sizes, it is easy to install, and it can expand with the homeowners' needs.

According to Mitch Slater, the company's CEO and founder, it is the first brand to introduce powder-coated stainless steel to the outdoor kitchen market, and it applies this technology to all its cabinetry.

"Everything about customization and being able to adjust the collection to the needs of the moment is something everyone is looking for these days," said designer Dawn Deluca, one of this year's judges.



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AWARDS 2019
BATH **2ND**

AXOR MyEdition

by Hansgrohe USA

ANSWERING TODAY'S DESIRE for more personalization and customization is the AXOR MyEdition collection of low-profile faucets and tub fillers available in six different cover plate materials: leather, wood, two types of marble, and mirrored or black glass – something for every style.

The AXOR FinishPlus program offers an additional 13 finishes, which according to Shingo Watada, senior product manager at Hansgrohe USA, are applied in a PVD chamber using physical vapor deposition technology. A coating is applied in a vacuum using steam, which leaves the fixtures extremely scratch and abrasion resistant. These special finishes are 50 percent more than the cost of the fixture in chrome, which starts at \$800 for the single-hole faucet and chrome plate.

The cover plates are easy to install and switch out, and the company's PowderRain spray technology provides a fine mist with a powder-like feel that bounces off the skin and causes less splashing. The AXOR Signature program allows for further personalization of the fixtures, where large orders can feature custom engraving, including hot/cold symbols or initials.

The judges chose this collection for its easy-to-change-out customization and the soft properties of the PowderRain technology – especially for bathers with sensitive skin.





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AWARDS 2019
KITCHEN 3RD

Natufia Kitchen Garden

by Natufia Labs

CATERING TO THE GREEN FOOD MOVEMENT is the Natufia Kitchen Garden, which has the ability to grow most organic fruits, vegetables and herbs right in your clients' kitchens. One unit with the starter kit is \$12,000, and homeowners with more space and larger families can choose to purchase more than one unit and place them next to each other with an external connector.

According to Natufia Labs CEO Gregory Lu, the machine is fully automatic and operates as a hydroponic vertical farming unit, taking care of the right amount of light, water and nutrients and can also play music for plants if desired. The stainless-steel, ceramic and tempered-glass system is easy to use – just place a seed pod in its unit, and let the computer do the work for you.

The judges appreciated this technological concept, as it meets the strong demand of consumers becoming more concerned with eating super-fresh foods and leading healthier lifestyles.



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AWARDS 2019
BATH 3RD

Silestone Et Noir

by Cosentino

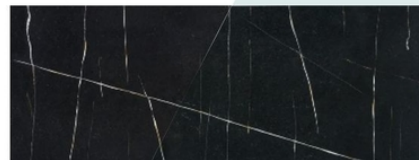
THE MOODY HUE of this 90 percent natural quartz material was inspired by Sahara noir marble – a stunning black marble with gold and white veins that originated in Tunisia. The striking colors run all the way through the thickness of the slab for a more natural appearance.

Other qualities that set Et Noir apart from similar materials in the industry are its high resistance to impact, large-format production and variation in kitchen and bath applications, including shower walls, backsplashes and countertops.

The material also offers N-Boost technology, which the company says modifies the surface on a molecular level. This results in an easy-to-clean, liquid-repellent surface and also intensifies the color for a more authentic, natural look with an ultra-glossy finish. Part of the Silestone Eternal Series, Et Noir retails from \$49 to \$110 per square foot, depending on the thickness and finish, and is available in both polished and suede finishes.



The judges were impressed by the surface's innovation in how it is produced, its indication of the cool and classic looks to come and its beautiful example of what true attention to detail looks like.





12-ft. Outdoor Living Suite with Power Burner by Hestan

PERFECT FOR THE OUTDOOR cooking aficionado, the Outdoor Living Suite incorporates an island, a 42-in. Hestan built-in grill, cutouts for storage, refrigeration and a beverage dispenser. The suites start out at \$10,399 for the stainless-steel model and feature weatherproof outlets and single-point gas and electrical connections.

The newest unit accommodates the Hestan 24-in. Outdoor Power Burner, which delivers 70,000 BTUs of cooking power. For those clients who love customization, they can choose from a stainless-steel or stone countertop, as well as 12 signature colors and finishes.

The suite can also accommodate a griddle accessory; it offers the option of being able to operate each burner individually, and it features spring-assisted hinges that can hold the hood in place at just about any height. Stadium Lights illuminate the cooking area, and the Trellis Burner delivers even heat distribution.

The judges were impressed by this product's plug-and-play design with seamless integration and its reasonable starting price.



Freedom Induction Cooktop by Thermador

WITH THE FREEDOM INDUCTION COOKTOP, the home chef can heat up to six pots anywhere on the surface – simultaneously. The \$5,299 appliance detects the presence of cookware and transfers all programmed settings to the next location whenever it's shifted, with no need to manually adjust settings. According to Thermador, it offers the largest usable cooking surface on the market in its class, as well as 56 induction elements.

The appliance is equipped with the Thermador Connected Experience by Home Connect app,

which allows the cooktop and matching hood to communicate with one another to turn on ventilation and task lighting. Ideal for today's modern kitchen, the induction cooktop now features metallic gray glass and can be integrated with the countertop or is available with a silver mirrored finish. LED surface lighting – Freedom Sapphire Glow – is embedded into the sides of the cooktop.

The judges were impressed by the level of service this revolutionary product provides; issues can be diagnosed immediately via the smart app.

Biometric Secured Drawer by Diamond Cabinetry

IN THIS AGE OF DESIGN for health and well-being, this product is a must-have. The Biometric Secured Drawer offers a self-locking mechanism on the inside to keep the storage contents safe from children's hands.

The drawer, which is available for less than \$175 and is exclusive to Diamond Cabinetry, is accessible via a fingerprint sensor that can store up to 100 unique fingerprints. It is offered in widths of 18, 21 and 24 inches and 24 inches deep and is available in a variety of colors, stains, finishes and glazes.

According to the company, the drawer is the first in the industry to include advanced biometric sensor technology from The Master Lock Company to ensure fast, accurate scans that grant or restrict access to things like prescription drugs with the simple touch of a finger.

The judges appreciated this product because it adds a safety feature to one's home without taking away from the overall aesthetic of the space.



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AWARDS 2019

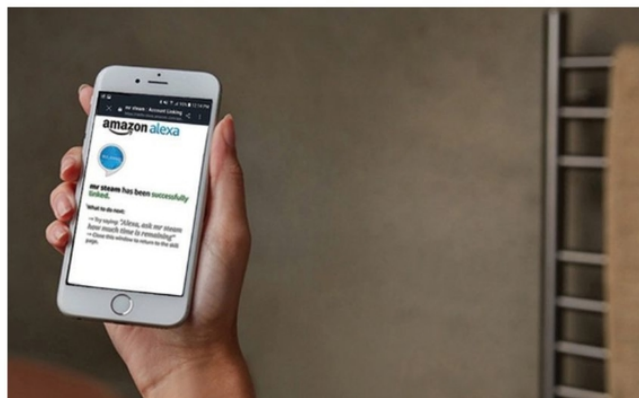
BATH
HONORABLE
MENTIONS

fixMI Bathroom Accessories by Mat Inter

NOW YOU CAN INCLUDE hooks, towel bars and shelves in bathrooms without having to drill into the wall after the renovation. The fixMI tiling trim does need to be installed during the tiling process, and once the grouting is complete, you are left with a decorative accent line that can hold a variety of accessories that can be solidly attached and moved at any time through a click-on-and-screw installation process.

Three bathroom series are available, with more planned to meet varying tastes. Kitchen and electric accessories like USB chargers are currently being produced, and Mat Inter is also working on an electrified version of the trim, which will feature spot lighting. Depending on what you order for your client, the accessories range from \$18 to \$195, and the trim needed to use the system is about \$150.

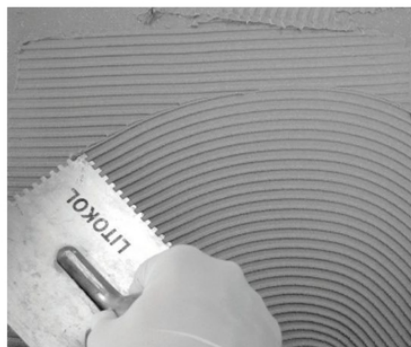
The judges chose this project for its creativity and because it solves a market need where space saving is key.



SteamLynx Module & Mobile App by MrSteam

EVERYONE THESE DAYS lives busy, sometimes stressful lives, and they look to their bathrooms as a beacon of peace and relaxation. SteamLynx is the first smart/connected shower system on the market that can be voice controlled by Alexa, which sets it apart from similar items on the market. This technological advancement is available with MrSteam home steam showers for \$425 and also incorporates Wi-Fi connectivity so you can control your showering experience from your smartphone.

According to MrSteam, the bather can set the temperature and time of the steam shower from almost anywhere, as well as learn how much time is left. The judges like the fact that you can retroactively add the technology to a MrSteam system already in place; it is an easy upgrade, allowing consumers to revolutionize their steam showering experience.



EpoxyElite EVO by Litokol/Tile Doctor

OUR INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE is becoming more aware of health, wellness and sustainability. EpoxyElite EVO is a safe option for those who work with and install tile, and its mortar is made with renewable and recycled raw materials. At \$94/bucket, it is also available in a flame-retardant version and is suitable for grouting ceramics and mosaics in indoor and outdoor applications.

According to the company, EpoxyElite EVO preserves the air quality in homes and significantly minimizes the environmental impact of tile installation while providing a durable, long-lasting adhesive solution. It emits no volatile organic compounds (VOCs) – preserving air quality in your clients' homes – is highly resistant to chemicals, does not absorb water (read: no mold or mildew buildup) and maintains its eight available colors without fading.

The judges appreciated the product for its amazing VOC rate as it relates to the green home – and environment – movement. ●