

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

KBB

Official Publication of NKBA | KBIS

2023 Product Awards WINNERS



- Countdown to KBIS 2024

- Closeup on Kitchen & Bath Surfaces

N K B A N o t e

DIAMOND CELEBRATIONS

You can tell it's the start of fall when it's time to start planning for KBIS. Registration is open for KBIS 2024 in Las Vegas from Feb. 27-29, 2024, and I certainly hope you'll sign up early to get a jump on the many popular and new programs we'll be rolling out in honor of the show's 60th anniversary.

We are currently highlighting NKBA's 60th anniversary with a year-long program of events, giveaways and special content this year (our chapters are joining us in celebrating the association with 10 regional events). But once we roll into 2024, it will be time to honor the 60 years strong of KBIS, which just keeps getting bigger, better and more influential. Not only is it the largest kitchen and bath trade show in North America, but it's also become a globally recognized event for new product, technology and innovation.

As the owner of KBIS, NKBA is proud of the show's amazing growth over the past six decades. It has never stopped evolving, and, in fact, we continue to roll out new programming, new activations and new show floor areas to inspire and engage attendees.

KBIS may be 60 years old, but it sure doesn't seem like it as every year brings change and reinvention. Sometimes it feels like a new event each year. Just take a look at what's new for this upcoming show:

- A second "stage" in addition to the NEXT Stage, which focuses on the meaning and changing nature of luxury with special programming and speakers.
- An expanded global presence with a re-imagined Global Connect booth and separate product kiosks, as well as an expanded German Pavilion.
- A new space for our Design & Industry Awards, which takes place on Monday, Feb. 26. The event is moving to a bigger ballroom at the Encore to meet the needs of a larger audience.

You see, in our industry, it is about the in-person interaction, the spark of collaboration and the excitement of an event or trade show. That's the reason why our last KBIS and Design & Construction Week® attendance topped 100,000. I think we can look forward to the same energy, positivity and, yes, crowds at KBIS 2024 in the Las Vegas Convention Center. The exhibit space is nearly sold out, and this is without any show other than our DCW partner, the International Builders' Show, produced by the National Association of Home Builders.

As we get closer to KBIS 2024, I'll have even more details to share with you. But for now, I hope I've inspired you to register for the show early and start gearing up for another amazing experience in Las Vegas. ●



"You see, in our industry, it is about the in-person interaction, the spark of collaboration and the excitement of an event or trade show."

ABOVE NKBA's 60th Anniversary-themed booth at KBIS 2023 in Las Vegas



BILL DARCY
CEO,
NKBA | KBIS
[linkedin.com/in/billdarcyjr](https://www.linkedin.com/in/billdarcyjr)



**MAXIMIZE SPACE.
MINIMIZE MESS.**

Ruvati offers a large selection of workstation sinks that convert your kitchen sink to a full-fledged workspace.

WHAT'S HOT IN KITCHEN SINKS

1



2



3



4



5



6

1

The Maris Granite Sink from **FRANKE** is fabricated from a stain-, bacteria- and heat-resistant matrix of acrylic resin and quartz. Available in top- and undermount styles, in single- or double-bowl configurations, the basin comes in seven colors and two sizes. A full range of task accessories is offered. franke.com

2

With an integral towel bar cast into the front of the 33-inch Iguazú Farmhouse Sink from **KONKRETUS**, the unit offers both function and fashion. The concrete basin is offered in four colors. konkretus.com

3

VITRA's collection of fireclay apron-front sinks is available in single- and double-bowl designs. Select models are reversible, allowing either angular or oval corners to define the front face. In three colors, sizes range from 24 to 36 inches. vitraglobal.com

4

The epiStage Workstation Series from **RUVATI** features accessory packages that include a protective bottom grid, cutting board and a foldable drying rack. In two sizes and five colors, the composite granite sink is available in top- and undermount designs. ruvati.com

5

From **STERLING**, the Luddington ADA-Compliant Kitchen Sink has a rear-center drain, enhancing accessibility underneath the 5 ½-inch-deep sink, while also increasing workspace in the basin. Featuring integral sound dampening, the contemporary design is offered in two single-bowl and one double-equal configuration. kohler.com

6

Designed by Kara Cox for **THOMPSON**, the Quintana Farmhouse Kitchen Sink straddles the line between modern and traditional styles. The handcrafted apron-front design combines burnished-nickel and satin-brass finishes. Measuring 35 by 24.5 by 9.5 inches, the basin can also be ordered in custom sizes. thompsontraders.com



KBB PRODUCT AWARDS 2023

By **CHELSIE BUTLER**

HEALTH AND WELLNESS are two buzzwords making the rounds in the kitchen and bath industry, and our overall winners have been paying close attention. A cold plunge tub in your own bathroom and a streamlined induction range for the home chef totally fit the bill.

A lot of this year's winners had a focus on function and aesthetics, and customization is still key, as seen with the Kitchen and Bath Faucet and Shower Components Category winners.

Still others were designed to solve very specific issues, including a product that protects trash areas from spills, grout that matches every color imaginable and a clothes-drying rack that folds away into a cabinet when not in use.

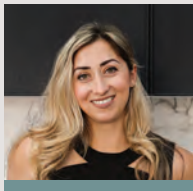
Today's homeowners also want products that are built to last, as well as hygienic offerings like the winners of the Smart Innovation and Countertop categories. Statement pieces

in the kitchen and bath are all the rage – faucets and vanities included – and sustainability is top of mind, as you can see with the Kitchen Accessory and Kitchen Cabinets Category winners.

A few wild cards round out this year's winners, including new versions of indoor and outdoor workstation sinks, an accessible and safe toilet seat and a wallcovering inspired by the ancient art of fluting.

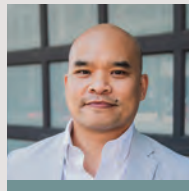
A huge thanks goes out our judges for naming this year's winners of the KBB Product Awards – congrats to all!

OUR ESTEEMED JUDGES



Ariana Afshar Lovato is owner and principal designer of Arroyo Grande, Calif.-based Honeycomb Home Design. As an NKBA-accredited AKBD and an Allied ASID member, she has a strong understanding of design and culture, enabling her to create spaces based on her clients' passions and inspirations.

Lovato serves on the board of Central Coast Interior Designers, is a board executive for Girls Going Greater and is a member of the Iranian-American Women Foundation. Outside of design, Lovato spends time with her husband Matthew, their son Pierre and their three pugs Molly, Walter and Tux.



James Saisakorn, RA, joined The Turett Collaborative in 2004 and believes the skills of planning, making and executing architecture is fundamental to ensuring the quality of the finished product. His understanding of construction and his extensive knowledge of municipal codes, landmarks and zoning

has helped guide many of the firm's projects. Saisakorn is advancing TTC's focus on ground-up construction and is overseeing the planning and design of a 34-unit residential building in New York's Harlem neighborhood. He has been a registered architect in New York since 2001 and is an avid world traveler.

LAUNDRY PRODUCTS

REV-A-SHELF 4WDR DRYING DRAWER RACK

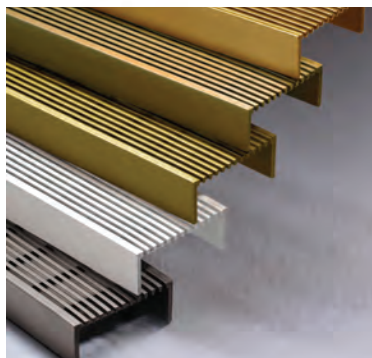
The judges saw this at KBIS and loved it for its efficient use of space and because it is an ergonomic solution that saves homeowners from having to look at ugly drying racks. The 4WDR can be used for clothing that lays flat or hangs to dry – up to 18 linear feet and 90 pounds – and installs within an existing 24-inch face-frame base cabinet with your door front attached. It features rust-resistant, stainless-steel rods; maple construction with a semi-gloss finish; and Blum soft-close slides and can be folded up when not in use. The 4WDR requires 42 inches of clearance when opened. Who said laundry can't be fun?



SHOWER COMPONENTS

INFINITY DRAIN SPECIALTY FINISHES

This specialty program allows designers to match these decorative drains to the latest and greatest bathroom finishes, including matte white, gunmetal, satin champagne, polished gold and polished brass. The collection requires just a 10-day lead time, and customization is available to create a variety of linear and center drains in various sizes and colors. "This is such a great product, and now with more finishes it will allow us to specify even more," said one of this year's judges. "Having selected Infinity Drain often in the past, I can attest to the quality of the product and the seamless effect these drains provide within showers," added another.



OUTDOOR OFFERINGS

RUVATI MERINO OUTDOOR WORKSTATION SINK & ICE CHEST (MODEL RVQ6290)

The judges celebrate this marine-grade workstation sink/ice chest combination as a brilliant idea for outdoor living – even in extreme exposures. Accessories include a cutting board made from water-resistant food-grade polymer and a stainless-steel colander, and the double-wall-insulated ice chest can keep ice frozen for 24 hours. A bottom rinse grid protects the sink from wear and tear, and front and back ledges support accessories. The ice chest features a layer of PE foam so cabinets are protected from moisture, and it can hold 30 cans of beer or 15 bottles of wine. Now that's a party!

