

# Kitchen & Bath Design News

## Back to the Future

BY JOHN FILIPPELLI

Kitchen and bath designers eager to find the products that will be impacting the future need only check the recent past. After all, the convenience, style and luxury that are the hallmarks of KBDN's most in-demand products for '05 clearly reflect the needs and wants of today's – and, undoubtedly, tomorrow's – consumers.

As in years past, *Kitchen & Bath Design News'* most-asked-about products list is compiled by tallying reader requests for information about specific products featured in KBDN over the course of the year. This year, 3,015 separate reader requests are represented by the top 20 products – a key indication of the industry's continued interest in innovative and stylish products.

In fact, the most-asked-about products of 2005 appear to embrace all things new and clever, with many of the products offering the sense of personalization that clients crave – ranging from glass towel warmers, jewelry cabinets and corbel collections to drawer dishwashers.

So, whether a product features unique, mouth-blown glass, intricate carvings or brushed finishes, this year's most-asked-about products showcase consumers' ever-growing desire for more efficient spaces that still offer enough panache to express their individuality.

This is particularly evident this year with the nine decorative hardware products that made their way onto the top 20 list, again reinforcing the allure of sophisticated and timeless pieces that serve as “jewelry for the home.” In fact, hardware made a strong overall showing, holding down an impressive 12 of 20 spots.

Even more prominent is the growing trend toward performance and efficiency, as evidenced by slide-out base units, jewelry cabinets and space-saving corner cabinets that secured four spots within the top 10. Indeed, the strong interest in these products further reflects the call for designs that are more streamlined – yet still statement-making – in the kitchen and bath.

For the more discriminating, fashion-conscious client, concepts such as illuminated showerheads (which feature water-colored light and cut crystals), or curvy, translucent shower units, offer a glimpse toward the future while still retaining the personal, in-home spa environment.

Ultimately, the qualities that all of these products share highlight exactly what today's kitchen and bath designer needs to satisfy an ever-evolving and savvy consumer: convenience, efficiency and luxury combined in a personalized space that can serve as a retreat after a long day, or be showcased when entertaining family and friends.

## MOST-ASKED-ABOUT 2005 PRODUCTS



12.

### Glass Towel Warmers

The Thermique towel warmer from **Engineered Glass Products/e(g)p** features glass that heats up, is warm to the touch and easy to clean, the firm points out. The glass can also be customized with personal designs such as a monogram. The Thermique hot glass technology is also being developed for a number of other applications, such as warming shelves and burners for high-end ranges, according to the company.