

SPECIAL REPORT |

Members of K+BB's Editorial Advisory Board Share Their Favorite Trends and Products from the KBIS 2015 Floor

Splashes of color, innovative storage and technology solutions, personalization and ease of use are some of the product and design trends seen at KBIS this year. Six designers from the K+BB Editorial Advisory Board shared their selections with us in the following Special Report.



Brandy Souza

Kitchen Views, New Bedford, Mass.

According to Souza, KBIS was filled with plenty of brands we know and love, and these brands have clearly embraced new technology to make our lives easier.

"One takeaway from This year's show was that technology is king," she added. "Technology, design and function can come together to better our lives."

1. Kohler's Touchless Flush Technology. Just when you think heated seats were the best invention to toilets, now we don't even have to touch our toilets to flush them!

2. TechTop by LG Hausys. Just place your cell phone, exercise tracker, glucose meter, heart-rate meter or portable speaker on the counter surface, and your battery will automatically charge.

3. Viking's Professional French-Door Double Oven. This design gives a modern, commercial look to your oven. It matches the current French-door refrigeration trends and allows users to open it with one hand - perfectly

designed for ADA needs. The large convection fan with bi-directional movement allows maximum airflow and excellent cooking results.

4. Homecrest Cabinetry. It's one of Souza's favorite cabinet lines because it can be used anywhere - kitchen, laundry area and mudroom.



Patricia Gaylor

Gaylor Interior Design, Little Falls, N.J.

Gaylor was on her mission to find the sustainable and green products prevalent at KBIS this year. Several of the products by which she was impressed also fall into the category of ease of use and comfortable living.

1. Florida Tile's Restore product line is part of its new Thinner program. According to the Gaylor, the planks can be placed over existing tile, which saves the old tile from winding up in a landfill.

2. LED lighting is showing up everywhere these days - even in drawers. The Loox LED Lighting collection from Häfele provides uniform cabinet and drawer illumination so users can easily see and access what they need inside.



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3. **Wilsonart's** Chalkboard Laminate is available upon request as Forest Stewardship Mix (or recycled) Credit and requires no regular maintenance. It is available in 4-ft. by 8-ft. sheets and can be used in a variety of spaces and applications.

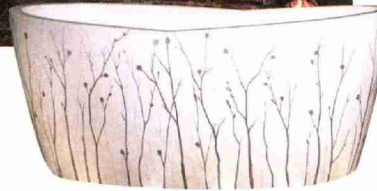
4. **Coastal Shower Doors** introduced its Second-Generation Gridscape collection at KBIS. The doors, which are made in the USA, can be used with clear, satin-frosted or patterned tempered door options and are available as stock-hinged swinging shower doors, Roman-style fixed partitions, bathtub shower screens, sliding tub/shower enclosures and outdoor shower doors.

5. **Formica** - a product that is Greenguard certified - is made in America, which Gaylor says is important because it eliminates overseas hauling and saves on carbon fuel burning. Also, "Using a product that looks like wood but is actually a thin layer of paper saves a boatload of trees from being cut down," she added. The company's PremiumFX patterns are available in four stone and concrete looks and two horizontal wood finishes, including Salvage Plank Elm (shown), which emulates the trend of reclaimed wood.

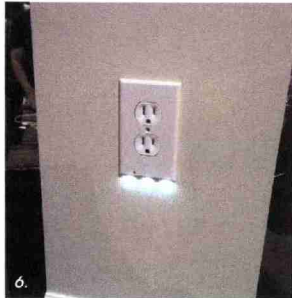
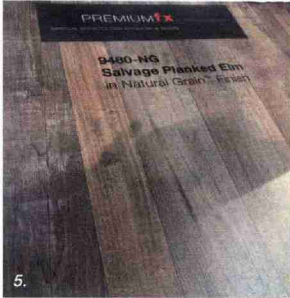
6. LED nightlights from **SnapPower** cost less than 10 cents a year to operate and last 25+ years. They are easy to install with no wires or batteries needed and leave the electrical outlet free for use.



An innovative, easy-to-access storage option from Wellborn Cabinet



A hand-painted Kanvas tub from Aquabross



Cheryl Kees Clendenon

In Detail Interiors, Pensacola, Fla.

I think people are starting to embrace more color in design. Just say no to beige and the rusty bucket-of-bolts theory of design. I loved seeing the mix of colors in tile, hoods, knobs and handles and even door hardware, and I love white paired with a strong and saturated hue.

To me, this embracing of color is indicative of the uptick in the economy, a return to "happy" colors to surround you and simply a light-hearted



Toni Sabatino

Toni Sabatino Style, New York

Sabatino noted a variety of trends at KBIS, including a lack of wall cabinets in kitchens, which were replaced by tall and open shelving. Less clutter is a must, so innovative storage solutions were abundant, including built-in cabinetry options as seen in the Wellborn Cabinet booth. She saw multiple hanging vanities, as well as innovative wine storage and refrigeration options.

"Customizable is king," she noted. She saw this personalization trend in Thermador's custom refrigerator wall, hand-painted Kanvas tubs from Aquabross, vanities with custom tile inserts from Tilebar and custom paint colors.



One of Thermador's customized refrigeration finishes



The sponge Bertazzoni range paired with white cabinets.

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approach to adding a little bit of fun to the ordinary. Not to say that adding color has to be only a circus tent-type of approach. Not at all. Color can be used in a very sophisticated manner in design, too.



Ebony Stephenson

Criner Remodeling, Newport News, Va.

Stephenson noted specific manufacturers at KBIS doing spectacular things. She appreciated ATI's laminates that can replace traditional tile in the kitchen or bathroom, as well as Formica's new patterns and colors that complement more modern designs. Hardware Resources featured attractive hardware for cabinets and doors at affordable prices, and - as Sabatino noted earlier - the use of floating shelves in place of cabinets was prevalent.



Greek Key, shown in charcoal, is part of the Jonathan Adler Collection from Formica.

The Cosgrove by Elements collection from Hardware Resources features a clean design with sleek curves.



ATI's MirroFlex panel is shown in a Moroccan pattern with a merlot finish.



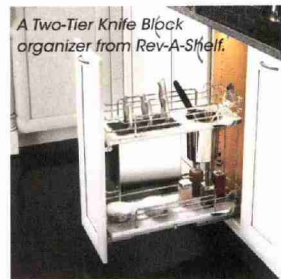
Paula Kennedy, CMKBD, CAPS

Timeless Kitchen Design, Seattle

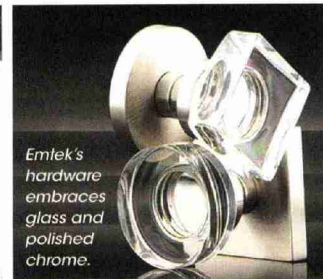
Kennedy's interests at KBIS included polished chrome coming back in a bright, refreshing way, reflective surfaces and mirrored accents - all what she refers to as "a breath of fresh air." Global influences in tile and wood textures were also prevalent, as shown in the Tilebar and Richelieu booths, as were rich colors, such as dark blue seen in the Cosentino and ROHL booths.



Brizo's Articulating Faucet



A Two-Tier Knife Block organizer from Rev-A-Shelf.



Emlek's hardware embraces glass and polished chrome.

"I found it interesting how many times that deep, dark blue kept popping up," she said. "I may have to keep an eye on that for the future."

She noted that brass and gold are making a comeback - mainly in muted and aged tones and finishes - and that storage and organization features are all the rage.

"Houzz said the number-one search [on its site] for consumers is storage and organizational features," she said. "What matters is what's on the inside!"

Lastly, she noticed the commercial look and feel of certain products moving into residential spaces, such as the Articulating Faucet from Brizo, which she said also goes with the industrial, vintage chic trend. ■

— By Chelsie Butler