

METROPOLIS

ARCHITECTURE AND
DESIGN AT ALL SCALES
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Mixed Reality
The Tech Issue

PRODUCTS

Very Personal Shoppers

Manufacturers are standardizing personalization with product features that are increasingly modular and optional.

By Kelly Beamon

01 PANDA WHITE
Refined for use as kitchen counters and backsplashes, this dramatic quarried stone surfacing can also be specified with mesh backing for installation on interior walls and floors in light-to-medium-traffic areas. It's available in roughly .8- and 1-inch-thick slabs. **ARTISTIC TILE**
artistictile.com



Months of COVID-19 restrictions have led to people spending more time than ever indoors. That has, in turn, led to an uptick in projects to improve the two busiest rooms in the house. While orders may take place online, the type of demand that they're driving is apparent in manufacturers' latest offerings ahead of this year's virtual Kitchen & Bath Industry Show. Notably, extreme personalization is becoming the norm as companies try to appear nimble in accommodating domestic environments that now also function as offices and classrooms, stress-testing home appliances, fixtures, and plumbing

like never before. New furnishings are increasingly broken down into a kit of parts that supports design flexibility and addresses a wider range of applications. One example is Artistic Tile's graphic stone slabs: Available in two standard thicknesses, the same stone can be specified for use as countertops, flooring, backsplashes, and shower walls. Meanwhile, on the following pages, notice that everything from fridges to electrical outlets can be customized thanks to modules and add-ons, which enable users to combine, swap, and extend without end.



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02 RETROPOLITAN
Designed and assembled in Boulder, Colorado, refrigerators in Big Chill's Retro collection combine 1950s-era details such as chrome hardware with modern conveniences—18.5 cubic feet of storage, crisper drawers, a slide-out freezer basket, and an optional ice maker. **BIG CHILL**
bigchill.com

03 ENDURA
For a monochromatic, stone, concrete, or oxidized-metal look on counters, look no further than Corian's latest heat-, scratch-, and stain-resistant surface, which was developed using a proprietary mix of minerals. Each 63-by-126-inch porcelain slab is certified **GREENGUARD Gold**. **CORIAN**
endura.corian.com

04 SOLENTA SENSO
Hands-free faucets aren't new. But upgrading to one that also has a solid brass body, stainless steel spray hose, and high-quality ceramic cartridge like this one can add performance and value in one move. **BLANCO**
blanco.com

05 MOBAR
Compact bar carts appeal to many entertaining at home. Dometic, a Swedish company known for mobile solutions, has rolled out a refrigerated version in three sizes. The medium-capacity 300 model features a single-zone fridge that holds 19 bottles or 70 cans; an external ice bucket chills up to 32 additional beverages. **DOMETIC**
dometic.com

06 DUPLEX GFCI OUTLET
U.K. manufacturer devOL has collaborated with Forbes & Lomax, a maker of electrical accessories, to create a line of decorative plates for switches and sockets including the ground fault circuit interrupters for kitchen and bathroom wet areas, shown here in aged brass. **DEVOL**
devolkitchens.com