

kitchen & bath DESIGN NEWS[®]

12/15

The leading business, design and product resource for the kitchen & bath trade

By Reader Request | 32

MOST-ASKED-ABOUT PRODUCTS OF 2015

Color Trend Report | 36

2016 Colors:
Relax & Recharge

Finishing Touches

Sleek details and luxury touches add style to today's decorative hardware, while new and improved technology for functional hardware makes accessing cabinetry increasingly efficient.

Hardware is the finishing touch in a room design; it's what pulls the space together, both aesthetically and functionally. Decorative hardware adds personality and helps create a cohesive design. On the functional side, the way the hardware works is crucial to efficiency and utility of drawers and doors.

"Hardware can play a vital role in design and is certainly not limited to complementary or utilitarian function," says Billy Peele, marketing/PR representative for Doug Mockett & Co. Inc. in Torrance, CA. "In many ways, it can act as the catalyst for the entire overall aesthetic. Simple adjustments to the accents can shift the entire feel of the design. The details are much more important than they appear," he says.

Though decorative elements are more visible, the slides and hinges that control motion on doors and drawers are just as important to consider. "Functional hardware plays a crucial role when designing; the quality of the hardware used will determine how beneficial the kitchen or bath proves to be years down the road," says Debbie Cannon, marketing services and communications

manager for Blum Inc. in Stanley, NC.

Jan Fitzpatrick, customer & market relations manager for Grass America Inc., based in Kernersville, NC says, "Homeowners are demanding a high level of functionality in their hardware: a smooth gliding action, higher weight-carrying capacities, adjustment features a consumer understands, soft-closing action on doors and drawers and, of course, a finish that will complement the cabinetry itself."

Manufacturers recently surveyed by *Kitchen & Bath Design News* say top trends include sleek designs, slimmer profiles, interesting combinations of materials and finishes and products that provide easy access and high functionality.

PERSONAL LUXURY

"Hardware is not only functional, but also a decorative element that can accentuate a designer's composition with cohesion or visual contrast," says William Zhang, creative director – industrial design for Emtek Products Inc. in City of Industry, CA. Decorative hardware can set the tone for a room, evoking a sense of style and personality unique to the individual homeowner.

Amy Tagle, senior product manager, decorative hardware at Liberty Hardware Manufacturing Corp., based in Winston-Salem, NC says consumers have really embraced the concept that hardware acts as the perfect finishing touch for a room. "We have really seen huge growth in higher-end crystal knobs on bathroom vanities, and these pieces really help create a style statement. In kitchens, matching the hardware to appliances or lighting fixtures really gives the room that seamless, polished look," she says. At Liberty, the firm continues to see luxury materials, like crystal, leather and marble enter the marketplace. "These materials are trends to watch in 2016," she says.

In functional accessories, there is a surge in items that have a customized use, says Shari McPeck, marketing manager at Rev-A-Shelf, LLC in Jeffersonton, KY, such as storage designed specifically to hold food storage containers, or designed for use in a beverage center. "It seems people are starting to really look inside the cabinet at trouble areas and are requesting specific fixes," she says.



The Swarovski Crystal All That Glitters Collection from **Topex Design** features 15 distinctive knobs and six pull handles. The Swarovski Crystal knobs come in shapes that resemble large diamonds. Knob crystal shapes include the round-cut Crystal Ball, the four princess-cut crystals of Cuff Link, the emerald-cut Lights On and the old-European-cut High Gear. Diamond Bar, the pull handle, is set with nine princess-cut crystals. Circle No. 190 on Product Card

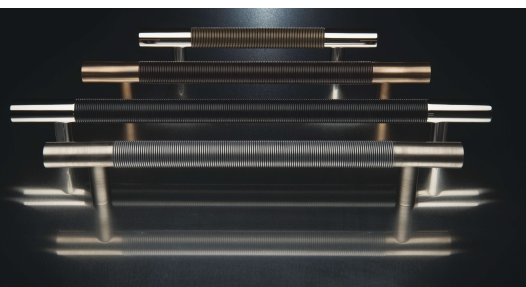


The SlideLine M sliding door fitting from **Hettich America** is a system that can be used for many applications. Silent System is integrated in SlideLine M's running component and moves doors gently and quietly in opening and closing direction, the company reports. The single-track, bottom running SlideLine M sliding door fitting is suitable for all common furniture designs and doors made of wood, glass and aluminium weighing up to 30 kg. Projecting by just 8 mm, the profile keeps sliding doors close to the carcass, guaranteeing minimal gaps at either side. Two doors can cross each other in just one profile. Circle No. 192 on Product Card

Sietto's Reed pulls, fashioned from glass, are part of the Texture collection and available in light aqua, white and black. The pulls are handcrafted in the U.S. Circle No. 193 on Product Card



Accuride International's new 3634EC drawer slide supports up to 150 lbs. in drawers up to 42" wide. The Easy-Close feature helps prevent slamming, even with heavily loaded drawers, the company reports. Circle No. 191 on Product Card



Available in cabinet hardware, door levers and door pulls, Wire from **Turnstyle Designs** is inspired by a 1950s industrial lamp fitting and created to fit in with the Industrial Chic trend. The handles are ergonomic and available in a range of sizes and multiple finishes. Circle No. 194 on Product Card



Porcelain Insert Knobs from **Stanley Hardware** sport a sleek, classic style. The knobs measure 1-1/4" in diameter and showcase a polished chrome finish. Circle No. 195 on Product Card

Baldwin Hardware's Estate collection of decorative hardware offers signature looks with a wide range of customizable styles and finishes. Master craftsmen create each piece by hand. Circle No. 196 on Product Card



Product Trend Report



Hardware Renaissance's Canyon collection handle pulls are based on textures reminiscent of the Grand Canyon, according to the company. The handcrafted pieces are highlighted with white bronze or shaded silicon bronze. Circle No. 206 on Product Card



A Qi compatible device can be placed on the Wireless Charging Grommet surface from **Doug Mockett & Co.** for an automatic charge. The charge is indicated by the luminous ring of lights on the cap. Circle No. 208 on Product Card



Knob accents include porcelain inlays that feature Euro-influence decorative script and signature styling elements. Circle No. 207 on Product Card



Classic style is reflected in the new Wadsworth Collection of decorative hardware from **Atlas Homewares**. The timeless look is showcased in the detailed moldings, from the flared feet and beveled edges to the slightly arched face plate. The Wadsworth collection is available in four finishes – Brushed Nickel, Polished Chrome, Champagne and Vintage Brass. Circle No. 209 on Product Card



This Fleur-De-Lis Wood Knob from **Notting Hill Decorative Hardware** plays on the trend toward warm metal and wood finishes in the home. The knob is shown in a Dark Walnut finish with Antique Brass decorative details. Circle No. 210 on Product Card

Arroyo, an original series of cabinet knobs and pulls created by William Harvey for **DuVerre Hardware**, has a new addition: The Long Pull. The 13.25" appliance pull is made of environmentally friendly recycled aluminum. Circle No. 211 on Product Card

But Peele believes that pulls and handles are moving toward smaller, low-profile designs. "With a minimalist style in mind for the overall design, tab pulls or continuous pulls that mount to the top of the drawer and essentially hide away into the design are very effective," he says. "Otherwise, small unobtrusive handles with simple, clean-lined designs can settle into the face of the cabinetry and complement the finish."

Zhang says that both large and small have their place. "Different types of hardware offer their own unique functionality. Some might be satisfied with the visual appeal of a small cabinet knob, but longer pulls offer better grip for large cabinets," he says.

ELEMENTS OF STYLE

Selecting decorative hardware for a space is like choosing the right scarf or shoes to dress up an outfit. The choice is going to be different for every person, and ultimately makes a statement about the homeowner's personal sense of style.

"Cabinet hardware is the dressing on a kitchen design," says Zimmer. "It is the accessory that completes the look." In finishes, she notes, the choice is brass all the way. Whether polished, brushed or unlacquered, brass is what designers and clients are asking for, she maintains.

Tagle says anything goes in finishes and materials. One of the big trends is a reemergence of finishes from past decades, she notes. "While brushed nickel continues to be the most popular, more consumers are experimenting with both mixed finishes and new warm finishes," she points out. She agrees that brass continues to grow in higher-end kitchens and bathrooms, but says it's a rich, brushed brass rather than the yellow sheen

of brass in the 1980s. "Today's brass is 'not your grandma's brass,' as it has a look that is very upscale and pairs wonderfully with rich, charcoal grey cabinetry," she states.

Decorative hardware can change the aesthetic of cabinets and drawers, adding both personality and style to the kitchen or bath, says Sheets. "Traditionally designed woodwork coupled with the latest hardware can give you a unique, transitional look," he notes. In finishes, he adds, designers and clients are mainly asking for stainless steel, and brushed and satin nickel, while oil-rubbed bronze continues to hold its own.

Peele sees designers moving away from brass and antique finishes, favoring more traditional brushed or satin nickel looks, as well as satin chrome and stainless steel. "Frankly, these finishes never go out of style since they have a universal appeal on any surface, but there looks to be an even bigger push to go back to basics right now," he says.

Subran points out several smaller trends that are emerging, including a "glamorous" look with shiny materials, crystals, gold, silver or Murano glass; a rustic look that combines rough elements and aged materials with very modern ideas, and designs inspired by nature. Finishes are varied, he says, from grey tones to bronzes to bold, bright colors and revivals of antique finishes applied on contemporary handles.

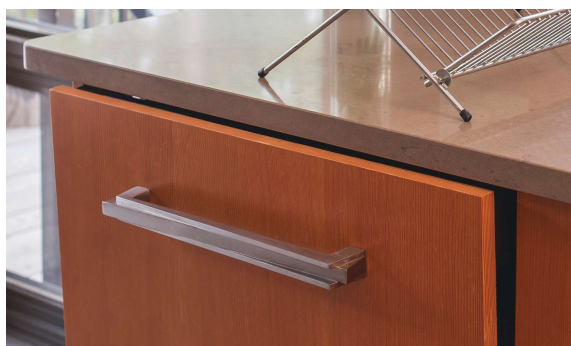
EASY ACCESS & ELECTRONICS

Functional hardware must be designed to make doors and drawers perform effortlessly, manufacturers agree. "Easy access is imperative and technology drives that," says Fitzpatrick. "The type of hardware that one chooses for their kitchens and baths can make all the difference in how efficient the space is." With the functional hardware of today, lifter systems, pull-out

The Florentine Collection of decorative hardware from **Premier Hardware Designs** teams hand-cast pewter with Swarovski crystals. Designed by sculptor Shawn Slother, the collection includes 12" and 6" appliance pulls, a 3" cabinet pull, cup pulls and knob, all in nine designer finishes. Circle No. 212 on Product Card



Keeler's Chautauqua collection includes traditional glass pulls and knobs that radiate light from delicately textured glass. Complemented with classic beaded style ends, the details embrace traditional style. The pieces are available in bright nickel, antique nickel and vintage bronze. Circle No. 213 on Product Card



The SLS-ELAN from **Sugatsune America** employs soft-close, free stay and lift assist for upward opening doors, and emphasizes easy installation and slim body profile. To prevent slamming, the SLS-ELAN is equipped with the patented Lapcon damping system. Past certain angles, ELAN offers a free stay so opening the cabinet door to the maximum angle is not necessary. Circle No. 214 on Product Card