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PORTFOLIO - 38

Designing Outdoors

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE - 46

Kitchen Evolution

PRODUCT TREND REPORT - 50

Wellness Tubs & Spas

**+ DIRECTORY &
BUYERS' GUIDE**

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Beautiful Refuge

Bathtubs and spa-related amenities with a range of therapeutic options help create home sanctuaries for self-care and personal wellness.

BY ELIZABETH RICHARDS

A FOCUS ON self-care and personal wellness reinforces the trend of designing spa-like spaces in the home bathroom. Those spaces not only include soaking and jetted tubs, but now also incorporate aromatherapy, chromatherapy, steam showers and sauna rooms.

"Self care includes creating sanctuaries that facilitate putting our hectic, high-speed lives on hold and relaxing," stresses Michael Zimber, founder of Stone Forest in Santa Fe, NM.

Justin Storm, director of category management at House of Robi in Irvine, CA adds, "With homeowners focusing more on their mental and physical wellbeing, the bathroom, naturally, is where they turn in order to de-stress and wind down. This, in turn, has impacted bathroom trends as consumers look to create spaces that are designed like a wellness retreat."

The bathtub is an integral element in this personal oasis. Zimber says, "[People are] bringing the essential energy and beauty of nature into the bathroom with natural materials that evoke the expansive and restorative powers of nature."

Tubs that can be customized with a range of options to create the exact therapeutic experience the end user craves are also important. "Homeowners want their bathrooms to be a place of relaxation, and bathing is now more of an experience," offers Storm. "Customizable showers and baths that include extras such as hand showers and body sprays are popular ways to emulate a spa environment."



What systems from **Schmidia** turn a simple soak into a gentle massage. Tub offerings include Silent, a quiet bubble system; Aqua Silent, a quiet jet system; Hydro Silk, with tiny bubbles; Jet, with jets for an intensive massage; Spa, with air jets for a bubbly wellness experience; and Jet+Spa. schmidiausa.com



Distinctive veining and nuances, together with attention to thickness and ergonomics, express the **Kraus** freestanding bathtub collections. The tubs are carved from a single block of marble, then mixed with wood and metal objects. Shown is Kalypso, customizable in seven different materials. kraus.com



Sculpted from **Aquabella's** signature Dolomite, an eco-friendly mineral composite that has antibacterial properties, the Canessa freestanding tub offers heat-retention properties that keep water warm longer. It is offered in gloss or matte versions in Snow White or one of four colored exterior options. aquabella.us



Devon&Devoe showcases three retro-style bathtubs created in Florence. The tubs reinterpret the Victorian Age, Romanicism, Art Deco, the Jazz Age and La Dolce Vita with classic-contemporary lines in marble and porcelain as well as sustainable materials such as White Tec Plus. devon-devoe.com

In addition to custom therapeutic options, technology that adds value to the space is in rising demand. "Consumers are also looking for simplification and meaningful technology that will help educate and guide them on their wellness journey, such as guided experiences," explains Huston Sprang, global senior product manager at Kohler, WI-based Kohler Co.

Other current trends include continued interest in freestanding and deep soaker tubs, pops of color that make a statement, and increased attention to accessibility issues. That's according to manufacturers recently surveyed by *Kitchen & Bath Design News*.

SOOTHING REFUGE

Managing stress and focusing on wellness has garnered much attention in the past several years, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Consumers are more often creating spaces in their own homes that promote relaxation and offer the same therapeutic features they can find at a spa.

"The bathroom, in general, has been a focus for wellness in recent years as the increasing focus on mental wellbeing has driven the importance of the bathroom space as a sanctuary for self-care," remarks Bryan Huid, product manager at Duluth, GA-based Duravit USA. "The bathtub is no exception as designs are continually focusing on therapy and serenity."

"[Wellness] has become a larger part of the design conversations with