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Kitchens With
'Wow' Power

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Portfolio of
Backsplash Designs



Kitchen sinks in the Atelier line from **Mila International** are fabricated with a 1/4"-thick stainless steel rim, a technology that permits true flush mounting of a stainless steel sink. The technology provides a seamless, 100% flush transition between the sink rim and the countertop for an easy-to-clean surface, the company notes. Circle No. 183 on Product Card



The Hayley and Hillary farmer sinks from **Barclay Products** are single-bowl white fireclay sinks made in Italy. Measuring 36" in width, both sinks are finished on all four sides. Hayley is a smooth-front sink, while Hillary (shown) has a fluted apron front. Circle No. 184 on Product Card



The Galley Workstation allows users to prep, cook, serve, entertain and clean up in one place. Available in six lengths, the comprehensive Workstation also offers four double-bowl models as well as custom sizes. Each includes a Culinary Kit available in Natural Bamboo, Graphite Wood Composite or High Density White or Gray Resin. Circle No. 185 on Product Card



The Esque Single-Handle Pull-Down Kitchen Faucet from **Delta Faucet Co.** sports refined curves, including a clipped ballet pose. Featuring Touch2O Technology, the faucet offers optional ShieldSpray Technology, which cuts through grime with a concentrated stream and prevents splatter with a water shield, the firm notes. Circle No. 186 on Product Card



Featuring flat panels with smooth cylindrical shapes, the Method faucet from **Moen** incorporates Power Clean spray technology – a powerful, concentrated spray. A two-function pull-out wand allows users to switch the water flow from an aerated stream for cleaning to a spray for rinsing. It is available in Moen's Spot Resist finish. Circle No. 187 on Product Card



Franke's Chef Center is designed to enhance entertaining, simplify cleanup and maximize creativity, according to the company. The Chef Center features two anti-microbial compartments for collecting compost scraps, chilling wine or storing kitchen tools. A number of custom accessories are also available, including Franke's Roller Mat. Circle No. 188 on Product Card



The Axor Citterio Select Kitchen Faucet from **Hansgrohe** features an ergonomically designed handle and adjustable pivoting area of up to 360 degrees that creates freedom of movement at the sink. Hand-sprays with two jet types provide ease of use. Circle No. 189 on Product Card



Brizo's articulating kitchen faucets are available with optional Smart-Touch Technology, which allows water to turn on and off with a touch anywhere on the faucet. The spray wand can be easily docked and undocked, presenting spray or stream options. The articulating arm is available in the Artesso and Solna collections. Circle No. 190 on Product Card

kitchens using solid surfaces and undermount sinks, you can achieve an uncluttered look with only a single hole."

Gunderson agrees that single bowls are trending, but says Blanco sees a need for both small and larger bowls. This can mean more than one sink is incorporated – perhaps matching laundry, bar and kitchen sinks, for instance. "Low divides are also expanding as people remodel with one foot in the past and one in the future," says Gunderson, "wanting that single-bowl look, but not giving up on two bowls completely." He adds that a single-handle faucet is easiest for both aging in place and multigenerational households.

CREATIVE PULL DOWNS

Pull-down faucets have long been on the rise, and this trend continues, with added flexibility and functionality. "For faucet selection, pull down remains a popular demand from homeowners, along with more and different functionalities like aerated sprays, a spray to help clean and sprays for rinsing fruits and vegetables," says Moore.

Gunderson adds, "We are seeing pull-down faucets with dual sprays and high arcs. These are livable or organic in design. They have clean lines that fit into modern and classic settings – but with a nod to organic shapes that are softer than professional chefs' faucets and therefore fit better into furnished Great Room settings. A pro faucet with its high

functionality and high arc is still desirable, but we've reimagined those features to be more sophisticated and fit in better with the living kitchen home environment."

Rohl says the functionality of pull downs has been adapted to a wider range of decorative styles. "In recent years, we've seen the popularity of professional or commercial designs. Now we're seeing a demand for more decorative interpretations."

HANDS OFF

Sometimes, a new technology changes the way a product is perceived. This seems to be the case with the hands-free option in faucets, at least for some. "Touchless technology certainly has changed how we think about faucets," says Moore. "Faucets are no longer the last item chosen. With new technologies like touchless, homeowners are more aware of the benefits of having the right faucet."

Taft says that although touch-free kitchen faucets have clearly arrived, the reviews are mixed. He has heard complaints about touch-free faucets being 'buggy,' he says, and there is no ability to change the temperature without touching the handle. "It's pretty subjective as to whether or not touch-free faucets bring true value, or are still a bit gimmicky and not yet ready for prime time. Time will tell, but I applaud manufacturers' commitment to innovation," he concludes. ■