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## CREATIVE PROJECTS SHOWCASE MATERIAL CHARMS

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## Product Trend Report



Offered in stainless steel as well as fireclay, the Orchard collection of kitchen sinks from DXV by **American Standard** brings flexible installation options to today's kitchen. The stainless steel models are suitable for undercounter, flush countertop or above-counter custom installation. The fireclay version features a reversible design, with sink finished on all four sides. The fireclay sink is available in White, Oyster and Chenille Gray. Circle No. 170 on Product Card



**GROHE** has launched a dual-spray pull-down kitchen faucet within its Parkfield collection. Drawing design inspiration from nature, the lever of the faucet has a fluid form that is reminiscent of the shape and curves of a leaf, while the bottom of the faucet resembles the shape of water droplet, according to the company. Circle No. 172 on Product Card



The transitionally designed Notch kitchen suite from **Moen Incorporated** features a high-arc kitchen faucet and matching bar/prep model – both featuring a pull-down spout and 45-degree angled handle. The faucet features a soft diamond shape that is continuous from base to spout. The pull-down models feature Moen's Reflex system, which offers a spray wand designed to put itself away, as well as three functions. Circle No. 173 on Product Card

The Countryhaus by **Whitehaus Collection** can be used as an apron-front or above-mount sink for the kitchen. Fashioned from vitreous china, the sink is chip-, stain- and scratch-resistant, according to the firm. The sink's design features a high backsplash for additional shield when washing. Circle No. 171 on Product Card



**Dornbracht's** new digital control concept – Smart Water – allows the user to turn water on and off with a foot sensor, and preprogram settings so that water always turns on at the desired temperature and volume. The electronic drain opens and closes, eliminating the need to put hands in dirty water. Smart Water controls include a simple display switch and two control knobs for volume and temperature. Circle No. 174 on Product Card



**The Galley** has a new collection of Ideal Workstations that feature models available in various sizes, ranging all the way from 2' to 7' lengths. All models include a fabricated one-piece 10" deep, double-tier single bowl stainless steel kitchen sink with a custom "Angel" finish and a complimentary Culinary Kit, which includes accessories such as colanders, mixing bowls with lids, cutting boards and drain racks. Circle No. 175 on Product Card

available within brushed finishes that improve the overall look and experience at the sink," she says.

Sink materials are as varied as faucet finishes, and though stainless is still a top seller, other less traditional materials are up and coming.

"In the kitchen, stainless steel still has volume, but the trends now favor non-traditional alternative materials," says Lord. "Finishes are really based on personal style and the room's look, but the trends we are seeing more and more lately are textured and tempered metals, such as a clean copper, paired with marble to add a feeling of luxury and warmth."

Naomi Neilson Howard, founder/CEO, Native Trails, Inc. in San Luis Obispo, CA has seen increased demand for nickel finish sinks. "Our brushed nickel-plated hammered copper kitchen basins have maintained a disproportionate growth in comparison to other products, even with their higher price point," she says. Additionally, the firm's recently introduced NativeStone Collection of sustainably made concrete sinks seems to have struck a chord, she says. "People are loving the earthy yet fresh and clean feel of the concrete."

Durability is an important consideration in sink construction, making stainless and fireclay popular choices, manufacturers say.

"Stainless steel continues to be the most popular sink material for consumers," says Conroy. "It offers a uniform, wear-resistant finish that's durable and withstands chipping, cracking, staining or peeling."

Rohl says that fireclay sinks remain one of the most popular choices due to their extreme durability. "Authentically crafted fireclay sinks are resistant to acid, alkali and scratches, and often outlive the very spaces for which they were created," he says.

"Granite sinks are on trend as they fit the model of livable design [with granite being] organic, durable, functional and con-

temporary," adds Maicher. Top-selling colors are brown, grey/black and beige, and the fastest-growing colors include warm grey, grey/black and metallic grey, he says. "Grey is one of the fastest growing neutrals in both warm and cool tones," he adds.

### ECLECTIC DESIGN

With the strong pull toward customized spaces, styles are moving toward a more transitional feel, with plenty of room for unique faucet, sink and accessory choices. Open design has also impacted the look and feel of the space.

"More relaxed and open kitchen designs require sinks and faucets that can complement any look and remain timeless in the space," says Schrage.

Open floor plans make a standout sink more desirable than ever, says Neilson Howard. "Apron front sinks are in high demand, as they can be the focal point of a kitchen," she says. She adds that transitional designs that marry modern and traditional elements continue to grow in demand. "Textural materials are also quite popular, meeting the elemental human need to touch and feel what is around them. Hammered copper, with its distinctive texture, has a very tactile draw and works well in a transitional setting," she says.

Designers are also streamlining the space, and working to create a clean, seamless feel, Lord says. As a result, he is seeing more single-basin sinks, which offer a cleaner look. He adds that homeowners are also finding ways to increase spatial efficiency while still touting high design.

"Open kitchen designs have called for chef-inspired faucet designs that are lower in height and more transitional in design," says Maicher. Matching fixtures, such as bar faucets and accessories, are also in demand, he says. "Many kitchens are featuring multiple stations or prep areas and sinks. A two-sink kitchen may have a prep faucet and a super single. Both require matching fixtures and accessories," he says.



The Wave Front sink from **Stone Forest** has the pattern of flowing water on its apron-front. Carved in both Carrara Marble and Honed Basalt, the sink is suitable for indoor or outdoor use. Circle No. 176 on Product Card



Featuring a sleek design, the Trinsic kitchen faucet from **Delta Faucet Co.** now features Touch2O Technology. The touch-activated faucet turns on and off with a touch on the spout or handle, and features an automatic water flow shut-off after one minute. ADA compliant, the faucet features Delta's Diamond Seal technology and Magnatite Docking for the pull-out. Circle No. 178 on Product Card



**InSinkErator** showcases the All-in-One kitchen tap. Italian-designed, the 3NI All-in-One kitchen faucet combines a contemporary mixer tap with a steaming hot water dispenser to provide unfiltered cold and hot water, or filtered, 208 degree F near-boiling water. Finishes for the tap include chrome and brushed steel. Circle No. 177 on Product Card

The Farmhouse Series of hand-hammered copper kitchen basins from **Native Trails** are forged from premium 16-gauge recycled copper. The five basins showcase an apron-front farm design, are available in a single or double basin and range in sizes from 25" to 40". The sinks are fashioned from salvaged electrical wire and copper tubing and handcrafted by local artisans. Shown is the Farmhouse Duet Pro double-bowl farmhouse sink. Circle No. 179 on Product Card

