

kitchen & bath DESIGN NEWS[®]

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KBDN'S TOP INNOVATORS

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Appliance Connections



Kitchen range hoods from **Vent-A-Hood** incorporate the company's patented centrifugal grease extraction system for cleaner air quality. The family owned firm has been producing kitchen ventilation in the U.S. since 1933.
ventahood.com



Zephyr's Presrv Full Size Dual Zone Wine & Beverage Coolers incorporate PreciseTemp temperature control, Active Cooling Technology and a Vibration Dampening System. Full-extension wood racks and slide-out gray shelves are included.
zephyronline.com



The estate-scaled 36", 48" and 72" Professional Range and Rangetop series from **Caliber Appliances** has been designed in collaboration with the country's top architects and designers. The customizable indoor line is customizable with color and trim finishes.
caliberappliances.com



Officine Gullo now offers the possibility of crafting modular refrigerator walls consisting of endless combinations of varying components and sizes. The appliances are equipped with sophisticated technologies capable of preserving the needs of every type of food and beverage, notes the firm.
officinegullo.com



The Heritage Collection from **Elmira Stove Works** showcases 1850s period-style appliances with features such as dual-fuel cooking, six-burner cooktops and true convection ovens. The units are available in seven standard colors and virtually unlimited custom colors, according to the company.
elmirastoveworks.com



The **KitchenAid** 48" Built-In Side-by-Side Refrigerator features an Under-Shelf Prep Zone that utilizes unused space within the refrigerator. The unit delivers 29.4 cubic feet of space, and a touchscreen control panel features intuitive operation. The Print-Shield Finish resists fingerprints.
kitchenaid.com



Dacor's newest refrigerator features its signature Reveal Door, a Beverage Center with auto-refilling pitcher with option to infuse flavor, and dual ice makes that create cubed and Ice Bites. The 36" Counter Depth French Door refrigerator connects to Dacor's Smart-Things network for remote access.
dacor.com



The 30" Classic Induction Stove is the first induction range in **Big Chill's** Classic Collection. Showcasing a 1920's aesthetic, the stove includes high-tech features including a power booster function and pan-detection technology. The stove is available in a range of colors and metal trim combinations.
bigchill.com

"For many consumers, connectivity is a must-have when considering new appliances as it helps 'future-proof' their homes."

"Every manufacturer seems to be adding some connected features," states John Hynek, senior product manager – culinary products at Miele USA, based in Princeton, NJ. "The execution of connected features varies greatly between products and manufacturers. There is a lot of promise in this space, but currently most features are related to monitoring and simple connected commands," he adds.

As demand grows for connected appliances, there are some drawbacks, and manufacturers say the technology must serve a clear purpose. Christian Boscherini, marketing manager at SMEG, based in New York, NY, says connectivity is talked about constantly, but it's not generic. "It's very targeted in how it's done," he says, citing as an example refrigeration with cameras that can alert the consumer when an item is getting low.

Chelsea McClaran, brand manager at True Residential in O'Fallon, MO offers, "We're seeing a lot of new technology appear across the industry – mainly WiFi-enabled appliances, smart appliances, etc. We haven't delved into that space, as our main priority is consistently introducing solutions-based refrigeration with exceptional functionality and enhanced performance to keep food cold and fresh – without all the superfluous bells and whistles. Products with those tech-integrated features definitely have a market, but they also require more complicated installation and maintenance."

"Technology such as Bluetooth and 'smart' functionality are strong trends," stresses Tony Dowling, v.p., sales & marketing at Elmira Stove Works in Ontario, Canada. "The downside is that many technological upgrades rely on computer chips, which have been in short supply during the pandemic."

It's also essential that appliances can be easily updated as technology changes, manufacturers say. "It's important in the appliance industry that, as new products are being developed, they are built to adapt to new technologies for years to come," Sandoval explains.

"Technology has changed the way we use our appliances and is expanding the possibilities of what, when and how we cook. With new technology constantly entering the market, it's nearly impossible to keep up with the latest tech in your kitchen," remarks Richard Anuszkiewicz, creative director, Monogram, based in Louisville, KY.

"We are harnessing the power of technology to make home appliances that last longer and can evolve over time. Upgrading your appliance is now just as easy as updating your phone," he adds.

PERSONALIZED FUNCTION

The desire for appliances customized to the homeowner's unique needs means that specific features, and the appliances consumers select, can vary widely. Manufacturers note that the most desired features are those