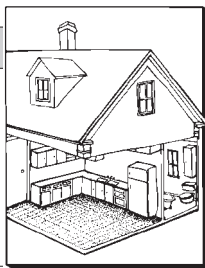


Show Time in Philly & Toronto

by Patrick J. Galvin



In the Northeast, we don't get many shots at truly excellent, comprehensive kitchen and bath shows. Usually the big ones are in far-off places that demand several days away from business and many miles of travel.

This year is the exception. In April we had the Kitchen/Bath Industry Show in Philadelphia—the big national showcase in this country, held in conjunction with the annual convention of the National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) and the Multi-Housing Industry Show.

But that was in April. Builders who missed it will have one more opportunity: the International Kitchen & Bath Expo in Toronto, Sept. 4-7. The first two days, Thursday and Friday, will be for the trade only. Saturday and Sunday will be for both trade and consumers.

and National Lock, for example. And the very sophisticated West German kitchen appliances of AEG will be in Toronto as they were in Philadelphia.

There also are several very fine kitchen cabinets that are made in Canada and also marketed in the U.S. These include Acorn, Downsview, Hanover, Heyme, Paris and others.

But even that doesn't quite get to the heart of the matter, which is that there are no secrets between our two countries. What you see Canadian cabinet companies doing are the same things U.S. companies are doing, and vice versa.

And that means the Toronto show will provide an opportunity to see what is new on a much broader basis than, say, a Boston home show. There always are new kinds of cabinets and new ways to make them and fit them into kit-

show was so packed that it was impossible to see all of it during its three-day run.

It was by far the biggest and best kitchen and bath show this country has ever seen, drawing about 1,500 exhibitors and 28,000 people.

And it demonstrated the growing international flavor of the show. In addition to the usual big block of space for the Federal Republic of Germany, there were big groupings of Italian, French and Mexican exhibitors.

In cabinets, the story was Eurostyle. Many U.S. exhibitors showed frameless cabinets with six-way-adjustable hinges that were scarcely distinguishable from those of the Europeans, while others simulated the Euro look with flush overlay doors on our traditional face frames. Even in these cases, however, there was a notable move toward European hinges and toward European drawer slides with captive wheels that eliminate side movement when drawers are opened.

While exhibits of all types were packed throughout the show, there were some that drew frenzied interest.

Two of these were exhibits by Feeney, with interior cabinet accessories of epoxy-coated wire, and by Task Lighting, a specialist in the new, growing field of low-voltage lighting.

Among several Feeney introductions was a dish-drainer basket that held 22

exhibit—including big refrigerators that make ice cream and yogurt—it made for a dramatic display.

The Admiral exhibit also included a fully plumbed and wired, freestanding appliance island. The island incorporated an 18-inch dishwasher, a wine cooler or built-in, under-counter refrigerator, a microwave, a coffee maker, a built-in NuTone mixing center, a 61-pound-capacity ice maker and a bar sink.

Another exhibitor, Rev A Shelf, offered an easy answer to an old problem: a "jackshaft" for a lazy-susan cabinet. With this, the lazy-susan shaft no longer has to rest on the bottom shelf of the cabinet—the jackshaft goes through that shelf and rests on the floor.

Next year's show will take place May 3-5 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. The accompanying NKBA convention will be May 4-6.

But to get a better view of the kitchen and bath world without a year's wait, put the Toronto show on your agenda for September. ■

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Toronto Preview

Why should New England builders go to a Canadian show? The reasons are many.

For one, several European cabinet manufacturers choose to market in the U.S. through Canada. So at the Beckermann, Alno or Snaidero exhibits, you'll see the same products they exhibit in the U.S.

Firms such as Grass Canada and Hafele Canada will show the same innovative hardware for cabinets and other residential uses that they offer in the U.S.

There'll be other familiar names—Jacuzzi, Kohler, WilsonArt, Amerock

chens and bathrooms, and any builder dedicated to fine housing should be aware of what's new in this field.

Another advantage of the Toronto show is that you can see it—and not be trampled underfoot as we were in Philadelphia. The exhibit area is spacious; the only crunch will come when the consumers do.

For information on the Toronto show, which also includes morning seminars on the trade-only days, contact Taurus Trade Shows, Box 327, Thornhill, Ont. L3T 2C0; 416/439-6442.

The Philadelphia Story

Looking back to Philadelphia, the

In some circles, the toilet still bears the name of its inventor, Thomas Crapper.

dishes upright, had four flatware compartments and also featured a plastic bottom tray that could be removed for emptying. It was made to fit in a 24-inch frameless base cabinet.

Several other new items here were a pullout wastebasket with bag storage behind, a "Cannery Row" pivot-out shelf system for wall cabinets and a variety of lift-out baskets with carrying handles.

Task Lighting's low-voltage systems, meanwhile, proved ideal for many applications. The exhibit demonstrated their use for interior cabinet lighting, soffit and toe-kick lighting, countertops and ceilings.

One of the most interesting exhibits was by Twyford's Bathrooms of England. The attraction here was not so much what was shown—high-quality bath fixtures—but the opportunity to learn a bit about the history of the company. Twyford's had an employee a century ago who, in 1870, devised the mechanism for the world's first flush toilet. In some circles, the toilet still bears his name—Thomas Crapper.

Another big winner at the show was Admiral. Through a joint venture with Vanussi of Italy, Admiral now offers a full package of full-size and small built-in refrigerators and freezers known as the Continental Series. Combined with the other Admiral appliances on



Admiral's appliance island has a built-in plumbing tree and is fully wired and ready to install anywhere. It includes, from left, an 18-inch dishwasher, an under-counter refrigerator, a coffee maker under a microwave, and an ice maker. On top is a bar sink and built-in mixer.