

# ■ Kitchen & Bath

Edited by Dave Holbrook

## RANGE HOODS

**Out of Sight.** A custom range hood provides the flexibility to either match or be concealed within any kitchen design style. The *SHL Series* stainless steel range-hood liners are available in 36- and 48-inch widths and a whole slew of airflow options driven by in-line, roof, or wall-mounted blowers. A mufflerlike silencer can be fitted in the duct run to reduce noise levels. The price varies according to options selected, generally starting around \$1,500.

Fantech, 800/747-1762,  
[www.fantech.com](http://www.fantech.com).



**Cheng's Hood.** Despite the universal habit of matching range-hood and stove widths, research indicates that bigger is better — a range hood should extend at least 3 inches beyond either side of the cooktop for maximum capture efficiency. The *Okeanito*, designed by concrete-countertop virtuoso Fu-Tung Cheng, fits the prescription with three widths: 36, 42, and 48 inches. A 600-cfm built-in blower provides more than enough ventilation above a conventional range, with a 1,200-cfm remote-blower option for high-output professional-type ranges. The retail price starts at \$2,800.

Zephyr, 888/880-8368, [www.zephyronline.com](http://www.zephyronline.com).



**High-Power Vent.** Don't mistake the low-key profile of this extraction canopy for a lack of what-for. The *U120 Slim-Line Under-Cabinet* hood can be paired with an external blower capable of 1,500 cfm. That'll just about suck the grease off a steak, so hold on to your toupee. A sensor that detects excess heat buildup automatically ramps up the blower. Dual halogen lights provide brilliant cooktop lighting. Prices start at \$860 for a 30-inch hood with an internal blower.

Broan-NuTone, 800/558-1711, [www.broannutone.com](http://www.broannutone.com).



**Friction-Free Extraction.** The Magic Lung blower in this hood uses centrifugal force to liquefy and contain grease vapor within a cleanable housing, eliminating the typical baffle filter arrangement. Without the airflow resistance that comes with filtration, the *Emerald VI* range hood boasts an equivalent cfm of 360 in a 250-cfm-rated unit. It's ideal for replacement installation and comes in four widths — 24, 30, 36, and 42 inches — and four finishes — black, biscuit, white, and stainless steel. Price ranges from \$533 to \$745.

Vent-A-Hood, 800/331-2492, [www.ventahood.com](http://www.ventahood.com).

### LAUNDRY ROOMS

**Slick Duo.** Since the typical consumer spends 5,987 hours doing laundry during his or her lifetime (I just made that up), why can't the room have a little ambience? I'm thinking mood lighting, piped-in music, and two of the slickest-looking, quietest machines available.



The *Nexxt Washer's* stainless steel drum can spin up to 1,200 rpm at a hushed 60 dB. The *Nexxt Dryer* is controlled by an automatic moisture and temperature sensor that protects delicate fabrics from overcooking.



Optional pedestal bases make laundry transfers between machines less back-wracking. A range of high-tech options means a range of prices: for the washer, \$1,199 to \$1,479; for the dryer, \$769 to \$879.

**Bosch**, 800/921-9622, [www.boschlaundry.com](http://www.boschlaundry.com).



**Dryer Vent Solution.** Plastic dryer hose is a fire-hazard no-no. Flexible aluminum duct is safer but easily crumpled in the struggle to connect and position the appliance. The solution? The *Dryerbox*, an aluminized steel receptacle that installs between wall studs and allows the dryer to be positioned without damage to the flexible vent. A down-venting version recently joined the line. New-construction models cost about \$18; a powder-coated *Retrofit Box* costs \$21.

**In-O-Vate Technologies**, 888/443-7937, [www.dryerbox.com](http://www.dryerbox.com).



**Sink on Steroids.** A washing machine no more eliminates the need for a laundry tub than a dishwasher does for a kitchen sink. Heck, it's where I rinse out my latex paintbrushes. The *SinkSpa Jetted Sink* was designed to emulate the action of hand-washing, using three jets to swirl the water around in a 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-deep basin. The jet velocity is adjustable for more vigorous action. The acrylic-finished fiberglass sink has a suggested retail price of \$599.

**Whirlpool**, 269/923-5000, [www.whirlpool.com](http://www.whirlpool.com).



#### Two-in-One Combo.

When space can't be found for side-by-side laundry machines, you've got three options: Get a clothesline (and a chiropractor); get a stacking unit (and a chiropractor); or get the *LG Wash & Dry Combo*, a single unit that combines both functions and occupies the same space as a standard 27-inch washer or dryer. A direct-drive motor propels the front-loading drum with up to 60 percent less vibration (read "noise") than a belt-driven machine, the maker claims.

Space can't be found here to list all the innovative features, but I can squeeze in the retail price: \$1,900.

**LG Electronics**, 800/243-0000, [www.lge.com](http://www.lge.com).