

PRODUCT UPDATES

Graff introduces Harley, a collection inspired by the automotive world



Graff, the manufacturer of innovative faucets and shower systems, introduced Harley, a collection inspired by the imaginary of the automotive world. Harley is the faucet collection that revolutionises ergonomics and aesthetics in the bathroom. It includes one-hole, two-hole and three-hole versions for the sink, the bathtub and the bidet; wall, floor or deck-mounted models, also in the variant with the linear lever, always knurled for an ergonomic grip. For the bathtub, the free-standing filler stands out for its elegance; for the



sink, the manifold wall-mounted versions provide numerous solutions; for the shower area, the collection includes several wall-mounted items, including those compatible with the M-series and the Uni-box systems.

The Harley collection is available in many precious finishes, including Onyx, a PVD finish as attractive as it is durable and long lasting. The progressive cartridge, inside, allows to control the flow rate and to move from cold water to mixed water and hot water by simply

turning the handle; this way the waste of hot water at the minimum opening of the faucet is avoided.

The handle rotation, in fact, increases the water flow and the temperature at the same time and always goes back to the cold position when the faucet is closed. The G+Design studio worked very carefully on the details of the handle to create a beautiful, practical and functional solution. The handle is deliberately knurled and the surface is ridged to prevent slipping even with wet or soapy hands. The ergonomic shape provides the possibility to insert the fingers inside the handle or to operate the controls by gripping them from the outside.

Graff President and CEO Ziggy Kulig, comments, "Graff is the first company in the world to have adopted the strictest international standards to eliminate any residual lead from the water dispensed by its faucets."

Sternhagen launches Kristall Basin Mixers



Germany's premium Sanitaryware brand Sternhagen launched its Kristall Basin Mixer. As the name suggests, the exquisite and unique beauty of a natural crystal inspires this collection. Kristall Basin Mixers' USP is to virtualise the uniqueness of nature & by refracting light from clean-cut,

crystalline surfaces with no two faucets alike; this collection is a centrepiece collection, which helps to provide natural perfection to the bathroom. The collection is made up of metal with chrome finish, which is very easy to clean and maintain. Because of its versatility, the collection is durable and easy to match with accessories and other fixtures.

Kristall Basin mixer is a mesmerizing collection, which helps to serve final touch to basin, allowing one to personalise interiors. For modern design bathroom, chrome finish is a perfect match to complement the bathroom. By adding sophistication to the bathroom space, Kristall Basin Mixers makes it a

comprehensive and functional collection to suit all the environments. This collection is a perfect solution for those looking for a traditional style that coexists with modern elements; a design not necessarily linked to the style of a specific time and, for this reason, hence always fashionable.

Chirag Parekh, Chairman & Managing Director, Sternhagen says, "Kristall Basin Mixers is a visual reminder of nature and each design connects people with emotions and memories associated with nature. Whether your style is modern, traditional, nature-loving, or luxurious, this basin mixer collection will never look odd while designing the space."



water pressure to drive the mechanism. This can result in no or low flow rates but more importantly there is a danger that the TMV will not be able to provide safety in the event of a water supply failure thus not being able to prevent a scalding incident.

If a valve designed only for low pressure installations is fitted to a high pressure system then the mechanism within the valve may not be robust enough to deal with the pressures from the high pressure system to adequately control water temperature. This may result in the valve being unable to provide safety in the event of a water supply failure thus not being able to prevent a scalding incident.

In addition to this, excessive flow rates may be encountered during normal use as the flow pathways inside a TMV designed for low pressure systems are larger than those designed for high pressure systems thus resulting in wasted water.

Many manufacturers now produce TMVs that are suitable for both high and low pressure water supply systems. Typically this may need the fitting of flow restrictors or flow regulators to control the flow through the valve at high pressure. Flow regulators can be placed in the inlets to the valve (one for the hot supply and one for the cold supply), or on the outlet of the TMV (only one required in this

case). Alternatively, they are sometimes placed in the hose or shower head of shower TMVs.

As manufacturers produce TMVs, in particular showers, for use on both high and low pressure systems care must be taken to ensure the correct fitting of the spray plate on the shower head. Shower heads are often supplied with a 'low capacity' and 'high capacity' spray plate to ensure that the delivery of water to the user is optimised. These spray plates have a varying number and size of holes to maximise the performance of the spray.

Applications

Thermostat has become an integral part of modern day shower systems. For example, Grohe Smart Control Shower combines multiple breakthrough technologies in one shower system. "It matches the intuitive interface of push button and volume control technology with the precise control of Grohe's best-in-class thermostat along with industry leading shower head," claims the company.

A Grohe release claims that thermostats in the Smart Control Shower adjust precisely to desired water temperature within 0.3 seconds. "Beyond that, Grohe thermostats constantly adjust the flow of hot and cold water so that the user never goes through a 'hot' or 'cold' shock in the middle of a shower. It also has safety features built in including automatic water

cut-off in case either of water sources unexpectedly stop, the Grohe cool touch that prevents metal parts from heating up as well as a temperature lock system to prevent accidental changes in temperature setting."

Hansgrohe has recently launched the new range of thermostatic mixers - hansgrohe RainSelect. "Generous, 70 x 70 millimetre switches make selecting shower settings a tactile experience. Operating them is similar to operating a light switch. Underlying this is hansgrohe's Select technology, which controls the various functions on a purely mechanical basis. In addition to the switches for the various shower functions, two elegant dials control water volume and water temperature. A porter unit for the handheld showerhead and a hose connection are also part of the control centre," informs the company.

The company further claims, "This makes RainSelect a clever product solution, rendering additional products and drilling unnecessary. There are two models to choose from for the shower area, and a separate solution for bathtub showers. An insulated, watertight and soundproofed base set is available for use with all RainSelect sets. Moreover, quality materials and reliable mechanics ensure long lasting functionality."

Design trends in small bathrooms

SUPPLEMENTARY STORY

Bathing spaces, an essential part of every home has significantly evolved over the years catering to the ever-changing needs and preferences of the Indian consumer. With changes in living style due to global exposure, Indian homes are advancing to a higher level of finesse. However, decorating a small bathroom becomes even more difficult, as one needs to blend practicality with aesthetics in an almost perfect fashion! With the modern homeowner expecting much more from bathrooms and turning them into relaxing spa-like settings, elegant, space-saving appeal becomes even more essential.

Changing user preferences

Bath spaces have become modern and consist of contemporary designed bath fittings replacing traditional materials. Innovative materials such as wood, stone, ceramics are being preferred. Today's smart bathrooms with automated functionalities give greater impetus to comfort, hygiene and ease of operation where people themselves lay more emphasis on a clean, tidy, hygienic and elegant personal space. In the past few years, sanitary ware industry has witnessed major changes in terms of design, concept, and adaptation by manufacturers.

Advances in technology heighten the bathroom's role as a place of refuge and escape from life's daily rigours. Technology plays an important role bringing in innovations into bathing experience. While the configuration of materials such as the toilet and sink allows enough clearance for a shower but in most cases it is still better to squeeze in an extra bathroom space where needed.

Emanuela Tavelin, Director of Sales Europe, Middle East and Asia, GRAFF stresses on the importance of functionality of the elements in small bathrooms. "Functionality is the key for small bathrooms. Small rooms can easily lead to unwanted clutter, more so if additional design elements are functional knick-knacks or objects that don't serve a purpose. Minimise counter space by storing (rather than displaying) personal

Smart technologies and clever designs are transforming bathing experience by bringing in innovations irrespective of the space available, writes Remona Divekar

Photo Courtesy: Graff



Photo Courtesy: Sternhagen

products. Now, there is an increasing trend for industrial and traditional materials like raw metallic components or wood applied to interior design."

She further adds, "There's no need to keep a small bathroom plain and minimalist. If you love vintage style, then go for it. Clever storage will stop a small bathroom from feeling cluttered and maintain a feeling of space and sophistication."

Liberating spaces

A small bathroom can be stylish, practical and with the right expertise, space-efficient where new design ideas are fresh and revolutionary, rethinking, where use of glass is luminescent keeping in mind the overall floor space of the washroom.

Chirag Parekh, Chairman & Managing Director, Sternhagen says, "Mirrored walls are one of the easiest ways to create the illusion of more space. Focusing on new and innovative materials influences the product design and inspires to test new possibilities that each material brings with it providing an unparalleled experience for lovers of art and innovation. Whereas, as far as colours are concerned, dark colours with ceiling are a big no; white or lighter tones makes the space look bigger."

Daylight or skylight opens up the bathroom and creates a light and airy space. White furnishings helps to bounce light around the room, meaning it can inject personality with few interesting accessories where lighting is the key, where mirrors and dimmable options in alcoves or behind a bath to create drama and mood where all light

fittings have the correct IP rating for safe use in wet areas. A few décor pieces make the bathroom feel bigger, warmer, & organised. Neutral colours that run along the floor to the walls and even continue onto the bath and loo creates a feeling of never ending space, rather than breaking up the bathroom into separate areas, which can make the room feel boxed in.

Design ideas

A clever trick to make a small bathroom look bigger is to use the same tiles on the walls and the floor. Not only does the natural stone in the bathroom add spa-style touch but also the continuous run of tiles creates a spacious feel, along with the wall-hung fixtures that save on floor area. If natural stone feels too neutral, it can easily pep up with strong colour pops with towels, storage, and accessories – an on-budget way to add personality to the bathrooms.

Where space is tight, opting for an overhead shower bath delivers the best of both worlds. Rather than positioning the shower against the short side of the bath, placing it along the longer side, offers a more luxe feel. A bold tile design around the bath to contrast with the rest of the room could enhance the look and feel – for example a monochrome scheme colour, texture and pattern without the accessories. White will open up a bathroom like no other colour, making it feel as spacious as possible.

It is not mandatory to keep small bathroom plain and minimalist where vintage style is experimented without feeling cluttered maintaining a feeling of space and

sophistication. One of the best ways to disguise a small bathroom is to create interest and a striking wallpaper is ideal for this. And, this needs to be specifically made for bathrooms keeping in mind the damp, warm conditions. Some designers believe that playing with the boundaries of perception by tiling the sides of the bath and the wall with the same design makes it hard to distinguish where each begins, thereby making the space feel larger. Marble is particularly effective as it looks almost like one huge sheet and the individual tiles are not very obvious. Floating fittings visually max the space, as more of the floor can be seen. A palette of off-whites and tonal greys makes the washroom area feel large and airy; while wall integrated, taps keep the look minimal and well finished.

Playing with the space

A well-thought-out design can fit all the essentials into as little as two square metres for a bathroom and even less for a shower room. The key is not to squeeze too much in. It is better to make a focal point of a walk-in shower or a beautiful bath, rather than ending up with a cramped bathroom. Wallpaper makes a statement in any room and the bathroom is no exception. A unique, bold, or interesting print maximises the impact in a small space.

Sandeep Shukla, Head- Marketing & Communications, Jaquar Group, states, "Nowadays, traditional materials combined with organic finishes make for a contemporary piece evoking clean and stylish sensibilities. Brands are also experimenting and playing with different textures such as combining stone with wood