

KBCULTURE

A SELECTIVE REVIEW OF THE PRODUCTS, PLACES, AND PERSPECTIVES CENTRAL TO KITCHEN AND BATH DESIGN

2016 KBCULTURE Awards

KBCULTURE AWARDS 2016

And here we are, the seventh annual KBCULTURE Awards. A pat on the back to us all, I say, as we have made it to the close of a most tumultuous twelve months.

Looking at this year's entries provides a bit of relief, actually. For better or worse, design in the kitchen and bath world has stabilized; the industries are in a period of product refinement, not revolution. The romance between appliance manufacturers and the Internet has cooled; in a sign of maturity, both parties are becoming more selective about how far to take connectivity. It seems that innovation for the sake of novelty is obsolete, regardless of the warp-speed pace of the tech world.

Similar to the holding pattern the engineering side of the business is experiencing, aesthetics are in a state of transition, too. Cabinet styles are mostly stuck in neutral. The obsession with ersatz industrial design has subsided, and at the other end of the spectrum, gilded and glitzy looks have quieted down, as well...maybe a subliminal response to income inequality?

Not to view this year's awards through a political lens, but given the uncharted territory we're about to traverse, maybe 'normal' is what we need or want design to provide at this point in time. Personally, while I appreciate the respite, I'm looking forward to creative pursuits resuming in full.

Thank you—and congratulations—to all our award winners!

—Leslie Clagett, Editor

KITCHEN FITTINGS



Winner: K2002 by Cinaton

This faucet elevates touch-free design to new performance levels; 13 of them, to be specific. Using five strategically placed infrared sensors, a wave of the hand controls not just on/off functions, but also water temperature, flow rate, and pause, as well as a temporary disable setting that's helpful for when you're cleaning the sink. In a feature rarely seen in touchless fittings, the faucet also features a dual function pull-out spray head and a swivel spout.

ABOUT THE EDITOR



LESLIE CLAGETT

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Leslie Clagett is a seasoned yet passionate observer

of the international kitchen and bath industries, and the founder of [KBCULTURE.com](#). An editor at publications ranging from Arts + Architecture to Kitchens & Baths, she is also the author of *The New City Home* [The Taunton Press], among other books. Leslie has a tremendous respect for quality design and the people who labor in its pursuit; her discerning eye has been known to get a little misty in the presence of true beauty.

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