

Insinkerator's Ashley Munden on why the UK was right for the 3N1 hot tap's global launch – page 21



How is Heritage Bathrooms supporting its retail customers? Gareth Griffiths explains – page 49



West One Bathrooms' Duncan Waters says the key to success is entrepreneurial spirit – page 63



Essential kitchen & bathroom business

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Coroner calls for tougher penalties after fire death



North London coroner Andrew Walker

A coroner has said retailers should be required to keep records of appliance sales for 10 years in case there's a product recall.

North London coroner Andrew Walker's call came after an inquest in which he heard that Beko had known as far back as 2003 that an overheating fridge-freezer defrost timer could cause a fire. It only issued a recall in November 2010 after an appliance caught fire, leading to the death of 36-year-old Santosh Benjamin Muthiah.

The inquest heard that independent risk assessors told Beko in 2008 that some of the 500,000 fridge-freezers sold posed a 'serious risk'. Mr Muthiah was overcome by smoke in his North London home after passing his daughters to safety through a window. His wife, Jennifer Benjamin, was in a coma for two weeks after the blaze.

Coroner Walker recorded a narrative verdict on the death and recommended

substantial fines and up to two years in jail for manufacturers that fail to issue a recall – at present the maximum fine is £5,000, while a major recall may cost millions. He also called for the creation of a Government-funded recall website.

Beko told **ek&bbusiness** that its modification programme included sending over 2.7m letters to customers in the UK and Ireland, plus national advertising, 500,000 UK home visits, and follow-up calls to customers who've ignored letters.

"At all times Beko believed that the company and its employees acted responsibly and appropriately in the circumstances," said a Beko statement.

» Beko could be fined up to £345,000 when it appears in court this month for alleged safety regulation breaches relating to gas cookers that have been linked to 15 deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning. The case is being brought by Hertfordshire trading standards



Win-win: For the second year running, trade news website **kbbdaily.com** - the online platform of **ek&bbusiness** - has won the BMA's media award for Best Digital Media Contribution. The award was presented to the site's editor, Laura Walkinshaw, pictured centre, and sales co-ordinator Oliver Anthony, left, by BMA president and Roman MD David Osborne, right, at the BMA-organised Bathroom and Kitchen Business Conference last month



KBSA national chair resigns as business enters liquidation

David Dalglish, the national chair of the KBSA, resigned from the role the day after his Thirsk kitchen showroom business entered liquidation on 9 October owing over £334,000.

Just six days before, Knaresborough Kitchens issued a statement in which director Matt Johnson said the showroom would close at the end of the month after it had been unable to reach 'an amicable agreement' with its landlord.

Said the statement: "We have received support from all our suppliers and no customers will be affected by this voluntary decision." It also said that the company's other showrooms, in Knaresborough and York, "remain very much open".

The Thirsk showroom was run by a separate company, Fawny LLP, and was previously known as Knaresborough Kitchens LLP. Among its 15 creditors were HM Revenue & Customs, as well as kitchen, appliance, fittings and stone

suppliers – one was owed nearly £70,000 and two over £66,000. Insolvency practitioner Jeremy Bleazard of XL Business Solutions in Bradford is handling the liquidation and a creditors' meeting was held on 21 October.

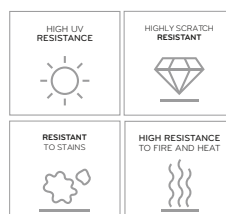
Dalglish, pictured, who started the company with his wife Lynda in 1996, said in the Summer that he would step back from the business to allow more time for his role at the KBSA. His place at the top of the organisation has been filled by Tina Riley, of Leamington Spa-based Modern Homes – see page 7.



COSENTINO LAUNCHES ITS REVOLUTIONARY ULTRACOMPACT SURFACE!



Dekton kitchen worktops are strong enough to withstand contact with direct heat and impact yet still retain a beautiful, natural appearance.



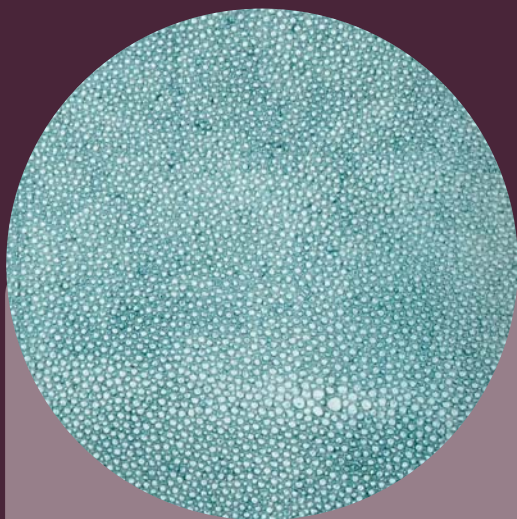
DEKTON.COM



LAPICIDA
Stone Curiosities

0800 077 3103. www.lapicida.com

Lapicida created a show-stopping display housed in its own 300sq m tent, making it the biggest single stand ever built at Decorex. Designed as an 'immersive experience', visitors were led through a dark passage of dramatically lit cabinets of stone curiosities



DE FERRANTI

Faux Shagreen

0207 384 4424.

www.deferranti.com

This specialist in luxurious surfaces showed off a host of different materials on its 18sq m stand, from delicate shell tiles to leather briquettes. This Faux Shagreen surface, pictured, is designed for use on walls, furniture, joinery and accessories. Made of resins, it is an ethical alternative to real Shagreen, has a realistic appearance and comes in a choice of six colours, with bespoke options also available



DEVON & DEVON

Capitol freestanding bath

0207 221 5137. www.devon-devon.com

Luxury bathroom brand Devon & Devon created sophisticated, classic and Art Deco-inspired sets on its super-sized 80sq m stand, with the new Capitol freestanding bath taking pride of place. The tub features an enamelled cast iron interior with aluminium external surface, finished with geometric decoration in relief, shown here, with similarly striking flooring from the Prestige Marble Collection

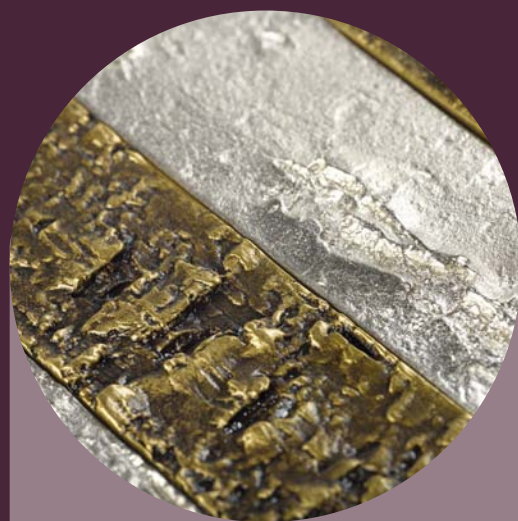


SAMUEL HEATH

Non-lacquered brass

0121 766 4200. www.samuel-heath.co.uk

In keeping with the trend for warm metal tones in interiors, high-quality bathroom fitting specialist Samuel Heath launched its non-lacquered brass finish at Decorex on its 24sq m stand. Available across the Style Moderne and Fairfield collections, the brass components are hand-polished to produce a high shine, without additional plating or lacquering. Untreated as it is, the metal will develop a distinctive and individual patina over time. Also launched at the show were accessory ranges for the Antique and Style Moderne collections, exhibited in Antique Gold and City Bronze finishes respectively



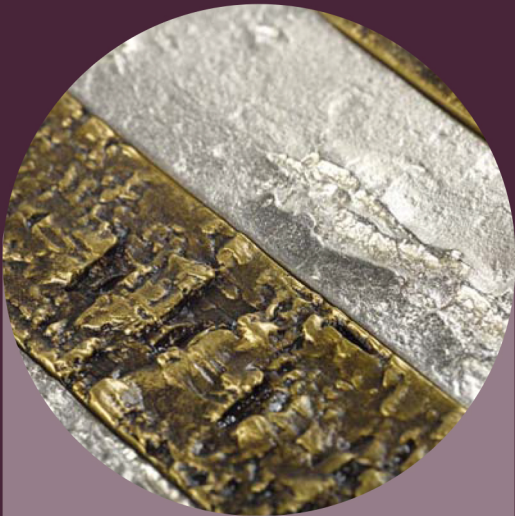
HAUTE DÉCO

Bronze Bark collection

0207 736 7171. www.doorknobshop.com

Luxury door and furniture handles are the speciality of this London-based company. Launched at the show on a 21sq m stand, the Bronze Bark collection includes a range of handmade brass lever handles, cabinet knobs, furniture handles and oversize centre door knobs, all featuring bark textures, from the rough-hewn Alder to the fainter rice-grain pattern of Birch

essential exhibition Decorex International



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