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# Kitchen & Bath Business

**KBB's 2017 Design Award Winners  
How Young Professionals Get Ahead  
An Intro to KBIS 2018**

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## Trends

**LEFT BLANCO SOLON** collects waste under the counter and lifts easily to empty and wash, while an attractive lid sits atop the counter and keeps odors inside. The stainless steel bin can also be conveniently installed next to the sink.

**BELOW EVOLUTION GLASS** handcrafted this custom galactic blue recycled glass tabletop out of 100 percent recycled bottle glass. Evolution Glass products are stronger than marble, comparable to granite and are ideal for kitchen counters, backsplashes and other work surfaces.



### RENEWING AND REUSING

Aside from using more efficient appliances and fixtures, there is also a trend to incorporate recycled materials – particularly in surfaces.

“For countertops and surfaces, recycled glass is certainly becoming more attractive to people, but it’s not necessarily a new trend,” said Bill Hess, founder of Evolution Glass. “In other areas of design, people are focusing more on reuse by choosing salvaged and reclaimed materials. These often have more character and charm than products created with brand new material.”

The EPA estimates that 75 percent of American waste is recyclable, but only 30 percent of that is recycled. Much of that is wood products, many of which come from slowly diminishing forests. Fortunately, manufacturers are offering a greener alternative.

“All of our products – flooring, panels, veneers and countertops – are composed of bamboo, which in itself is a rapidly renewable material that naturally lends itself to sustainable design and certification,” said Alexandra Zywicki, business development manager at Teragren, explaining that unlike hardwoods, which take at least 40 years to mature before being harvested, bamboo can be harvested in less than five years.

### FROM FACTORY TO HOME

“Consumers want something that tells the whole story,” said Ryan Fasan, technical consultant for Tile of Spain. “From the raw goods that make up the material to the effective management and disposal in end-of-life stages, consumers are looking for choices they feel good about making after careful consideration.”

Manufacturers are giving consumers this option by making their products sustainable from the start and being open about their practices.

“We began changing our production cycles more than 40 years ago and

Like in the Confindustria Ceramica factory, many manufacturing processes can be reengineered to recycle their waste materials and even reuse them to create their own power.

“Our factory burns pre-consumer-recycled sawdust and other bamboo waste to create steam to power the kilns, drying rooms and hydraulic presses used for our strand flooring and panels,” said Zywicki, adding that these practices also create a healthier working environment.

### HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

While factories are growing cleaner and more efficient, homeowners are also focusing on how sustainable products can improve their own well-being.

“Our clients are concerned with the health impact their design choices have on their families,” said Jennifer Jones, principal designer at San Francisco-based Niche Interiors. “We focus on indoor air quality when selecting finishes, paints and furnishings for our clients’ homes.”

VOCs are a common culprit in the home, as they are commonly found in glues and solvents and are often in certain types of countertops and cabinets. Instead, manufacturers are choosing to use elements like powder-coat finishes and phosphate-free cleaners.