

Fashionable & Flexible

Bathroom vanities and cabinets merge chic design with utility to meet the demand for creative storage solutions that fit individual lifestyles.

BY ELIZABETH RICHARDS

In the bathroom, vanities play a key role in both the overall aesthetic and usefulness of the space. Stylish visuals, clear storage solutions and products that fit the space as well as the lifestyles of those who use them are all essential elements when incorporating vanities into the space.

There's a push for an aspirational look and elevated functionality, as well as a desire to understand the inspiration and meaning behind the vanity piece, says Dongha Lee, manager of Kohler Styling Space Design Studio in Kohler, Wisconsin.

Consumers want to know the story behind the pieces they integrate into their homes and lives," he reports. There has been a slight shift in consumer preference, leaning more heavily into the traditional furniture-like style for vanities. They are more than cabinets; they need to feel authentic, personal and add to the design narrative, that homeowners are building in their spaces.

Linda Yang, lead industrial designer for Bristol, PA-based Roborn, says that bathrooms are becoming more and more like living spaces, reflecting the interior design styles of the family. "Many of the new vanity aesthetics derive from furniture styles found in living rooms, bedrooms and bath-



Made in the U.S., the solid wood medicine cabinets from **Strasser** are available in four sizes, each offering its own configuration of open shelving. Mirrors are feature both on the inside and outside of the cabinet, and interior shelves are made of glass. The wood cabinets are available in 17 finishes. strasserwood.com

rooms now echo the overarching interior style of the entire home. The popular styles like mid-century modern aesthetics are trending as new bathroom vanity designs," she states.

Vanity size is also shifting, due to both bathroom sizes and the use of additional spaces for vanity placement. In this new context vanity units are no longer necessarily placed inside bathrooms, but also in bedrooms, walk-in wardrobes and in dedicated, intimate and very comfortable environments.

Manufacturers recently surveyed by Kitchen & Design News say that other top trends for vanities include transitional and minimal styling, natural colors with stylish accents, durable and easy-to-maintain materials, and a demand for specific, highly organized storage units.