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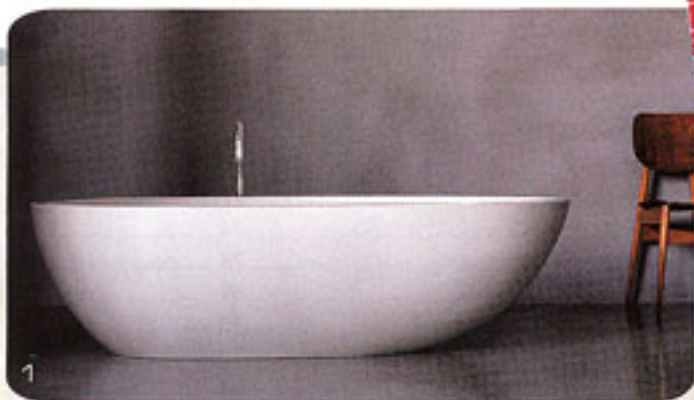
crowning glory

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## Ownby Design's Top Product Picks



Claire Ownby (far left), principal of Ownby Design, is no stranger to awards. The recipient of numerous accolades, including distinction as the 2007 ASID Industry Partners' Designer of the Year, Ownby, along with her colleague Lindsey Schultz (left), most recently were honored in the May issue of *K+BB* for their work on the 2007 Kitchen of the Year. An early standout in the judging process, the project is part of an oceanfront estate on the island of Maui and takes its cues from the natural beauty of its location. In doing so, it also exemplifies the firm's signature style with its deft blend of lush finishes and a keen, modern sensibility. As Ownby noted, "Ownby Design's signature style is combining lavish materials with minimal detailing to complete a timeless environment."

Such lavish materials include glass mosaic tiles from **SICIS (2)**, a favorite of both Ownby and Schultz. The Italian company offers several glass mosaic collections, including the Glimmer series (shown), which comes in a wide array of colors and blends. According to Ownby, the tiles can be installed on Plexiglas and backlit to infuse a sense of drama into any space.

**Thermador's** Freedom collection **(4)** gets a nod for its versatility, as well as its ability to integrate seamlessly into any kitchen. Not only do the separate refrigerator and freezer columns offer a "flexibility of installation options," Ownby said, the units can accommodate custom overlay panels in a variety of materials and weights, including stone, making them a dream to work with both functionally and aesthetically.

Equally versatile is **Waterworks' Promenade** cement tiles **(5)**. Handmade and individually pressed so that no two are alike, the tiles are available in solid, aggregate, terrazzo and patterned designs and feature soft, earthy tones with plenty of organic appeal. The designers like to combine them with "everything from limestone to marble" to create an elegant, yet varied look.

For the bathroom, Ownby and Schultz are fans of **Omnivo's** one-piece Washplanes **(3)**, such as Geo, which is available in single, double (shown), triple and custom versions, as well as a choice of natural stone or a white solid surface material. A cleaner, streamlined alternative to traditional sinks, the large, flat surfaces are perfect for bathrooms with a minimalist bent and, said Ownby, "very hygienic."

For the ultimate in relaxation, the designers, when possible, are fond of placing freestanding tubs, like **Agape's** Spoon **(1)**, in front of large windows to allow their clients to commune with nature while luxuriating in a warm soak. The tub's spare lines and gentle curves only enhance the experience of connecting to the great outdoors, which Ownby's clients surely appreciate.

After all, as she noted, the firm's designs are aimed at transforming "the spaces of everyday living into one-of-a-kind indulgences." ■

—Alice Liao