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# kitchen & bath DESIGN NEWS<sup>®</sup>

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## DESIGN AWARDS 2023

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**Design & The  
COVID Effect**



📍 MandiCasa's President, Dario Snaidero (third from the left) and CEO, Alberto Snaidero (third from the right), celebrate with the Miami showroom team.

## MandiCasa Opens New Showrooms In Los Angeles, New York, Miami

**LOS ANGELES** — MandiCasa, the supplier of kitchens, bathrooms, closets, storage solutions and other products from premium Italian suppliers, has opened flagship showrooms in Los Angeles, New York and Miami, the company announced.

MandiCasa's President Dario Snaidero and CEO Alberto Snaidero announced the Los Angeles and New York openings in February and March, respectively. The Miami showroom opened its doors in May.

The Los Angeles showroom is located at 372 Robertson Blvd., in the West Hollywood Design District. The New York showroom is located on the eighth floor of the A&D Building, and also includes products from Cosentino and Gaggenau, MandiCasa officials said. The Miami showroom is located at 4110 Ponce de Leon Boulevard in Coral Gables, FL.

## Gray, Brown Seen as Favored Colors For Kitchen, Bath Designs, Notes Study

**SEATTLE** — Buyers are apparently saying goodbye to bland colors and bidding more on homes with dusky, dramatic walls, according to a new study which found that recent and prospective home buyers would offer more money for a home with interiors painted dark gray.

The study, conducted by Seattle-based real-estate website Zillow, found that charcoal walls are associated with higher offer prices than white in every room studied, including the kitchen and the bathroom.

"Even the classic white kitchen has fallen out of favor with today's buyers, who reported they'd pay \$612 less for a home that has one," Zillow said.

Zillow research found that homes with a charcoal gray kitchen can sell for an estimated \$2,512 more than similar homes, while homes with a terracotta brown bathroom can sell for an estimated \$1,624 more than similar homes.

In a similar vein, homes with a deep graphite gray kitchen can sell for an estimated \$2,512 more than similar homes, while a midtone pewter gray kitchen can command \$2,553 more than expected.

"Buyers have been exposed to dark gray spaces through home-improvement TV shows and their social media feeds, but they're likely drawn to charcoal on a psychological level," said Mehnaz Khan, a color psychology specialist and interior designer in Albany, NY. "Gray is the color of retreat. As we come out of the pandemic and return to our hectic lives, buyers want home to be a refuge. They want to withdraw and escape from the uncertainty of the outside world, and rooms enveloped in dark gray can create that feeling of security."

Earth tones are associated with higher offer prices when used in the bathroom, Zillow researchers said, adding that bathrooms painted a trendy terra-cotta brown could help a home sell for \$1,624 more than similar homes.

## Pilot Program Aimed at Mental Health Issues in Construction Industry

**WASHINGTON, DC** — A pilot program focused on mental health issues in the residential construction industry has "confirmed the need for a more deliberate and permanent effort to reduce the stigma of discussing mental health within the construction industry," the National Association of Home Builders is asserting.

The NAHB announced that it has partnered with the North Carolina Home Builders Association (NCHBA) and Dr. Sally Spencer-Thomas, a noted mental-health advocate, to create a "Blueprint for Worker Well-Being Pilot Program," aimed at raising awareness of, and providing resources for, mental health issues in construction.

The pilot program saw the creation of materials focused on raising awareness of mental health issues and helpful resources that construction workers, supervisors and business owners could access to identify and treat mental-health problems.

"Confidential surveys and screening tools confirmed that there are high levels of distress among American construction workers, and that the topic of mental health carries a strong bias that's difficult to overcome," said NAHB Chairman Alicia Huey. "We know there's a problem in the homebuilding industry when talking about mental health challenges.

"We have a long way to go, but NAHB is looking to lead a shift in our culture that will allow workers who are struggling to find the help they need without fear of ruining their livelihoods," Huey added.

Resources are available on both the NAHB and the NCHBA websites.

## IWF, European Woodworking Suppliers Announce Global Partnership

**ATLANTA** — The International Woodworking Fair Atlanta, North America's largest woodworking technology trade show and conference, has signed an agreement with the European Federation of Woodworking Machinery Manufacturers (EUM-ABOIS) for the purpose of expanding IWF's global reach and enhancing its services extended to the European woodworking industry, trade show officials announced.

Under the terms of the agreement IWF becomes the sole North American woodworking trade show designated as a EUMABOIS-supported exhibition, event organizers said. IWF and EUMABOIS collaborative efforts will encompass strategic joint marketing communications initiatives "executed for the mutual benefit of their respective customers and constituencies," show officials added.

## AHAM Urging Consumer Action On Gas Appliance Bill

**WASHINGTON, DC** — The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, as part of an effort "to ensure consumers continue to have access to a full range of cooking options and features," is urging consumers to contact their Congressional representatives to request support for the "Save Our Gas Stoves Act," proposed legislation that would prohibit the U.S. Dept. of Energy from implementing a proposed cooking-product regulation that AHAM says would result in longer cooking times and the loss of many gas stove features.

If the proposed DOE standard take effect as proposed, AHAM contends, consumers will witness a radical redesign of gas ranges, since 96% of existing gas cooking models would not meet the proposed standards.

"DOE's proposed standard would be a major step back in gas cooking innovation," said the Washington, DC-based AHAM.

According to AHAM, DOE's proposal threatens to eliminate the option of having more than one large burner. The standard would also eviscerate low-input burners, removing the ability to melt, simmer and keep foods warm without burning.

To produce ranges that meet the proposed standard, manufacturers "would be forced to radically redesign gas cooking appliances in a way that reduces many features present on currently available models," the association said.

"This overly stringent proposal is part of a slew of other stringent DOE appliance standards proposals that would have negative product utility impacts for consumers and cost impacts for consumers and manufacturers," AHAM added.