



COURTESY: COLSTON

THE SMART BATHROOM

TECHNOLOGY IS PAVING THE WAY FOR BATHROOMS TO BECOME SMART, SENSIBLE AND SAVVY, WHILE CONTINUING TO REMAIN FUNCTIONAL.

BY BINDU GOPAL RAO

Over the last few years, there has been a growing need for intuitive solutions that allow consumers to have an immersive experience in their bathrooms. Technological innovations have not just brought better designs, but also optimum hygiene, enhanced comfort, and even new materials for products.

DO THE NEW

The new launches in the bathroom space are largely being driven by technology as well as the need for a more sensor based, touchless experience post the pandemic. Vitra, a leading bathroom brand, has introduced V-Care Prime, a shower-toilet-WC, which combines the functionality of a standard WC with the personal cleaning properties of a bidet and integrates the latest bathroom technology. "The design has intelligent features, like the LED night light that is automatically activated when ambient light drops below

a certain level. The V-Care app enables the user to adjust this feature as well," says Serhan Ates Yagiz, Country Manager, Vitra Bathrooms India. GRAFF has developed a touch-screen technology for a multifunction shower system to make it easy for the final consumer to use a highly engineered product. Adopting a technology familiar to smartphone and tablet users, the shower touchpad allows control of several multimedia functions with a simple hand touch. GRAFF's Aqua-sense shower system provides LED chromotherapy technology and the ability to listen to music and watch videos. GROHE, a world leader in sanitary fittings, have introduced their all-new Plus Digital faucet, a faucet with a digital display. GROHE has once again demonstrated that design is not just beauty, but also visionary.

MATERIAL MATTERS

GROHE continues to set the bar high in producing



1. Incorporating a Smart mirror that digitally assists your time in the bathroom or shower features such as chromotherapy and waterfall showers add a lot of zest to the entire bath space. Courtesy Colston

2. Serhan Ates Yagiz, Country Manager, Vitra Bathrooms India



3. Bobby Joseph, Leader, LWT, India and Subcontinent (GROHE & American Standard).
 4. Rishad Khergamwala, Director Developments, Maia Estates

5. GROHE Plus Digital Faucet has a digital display and an infrared sensor is installed on the spout for a touch-free experience.

6. Bathroom by MAIA Estates uses technology to educate residents on the amount of water consumed, creating a provision for water preservation

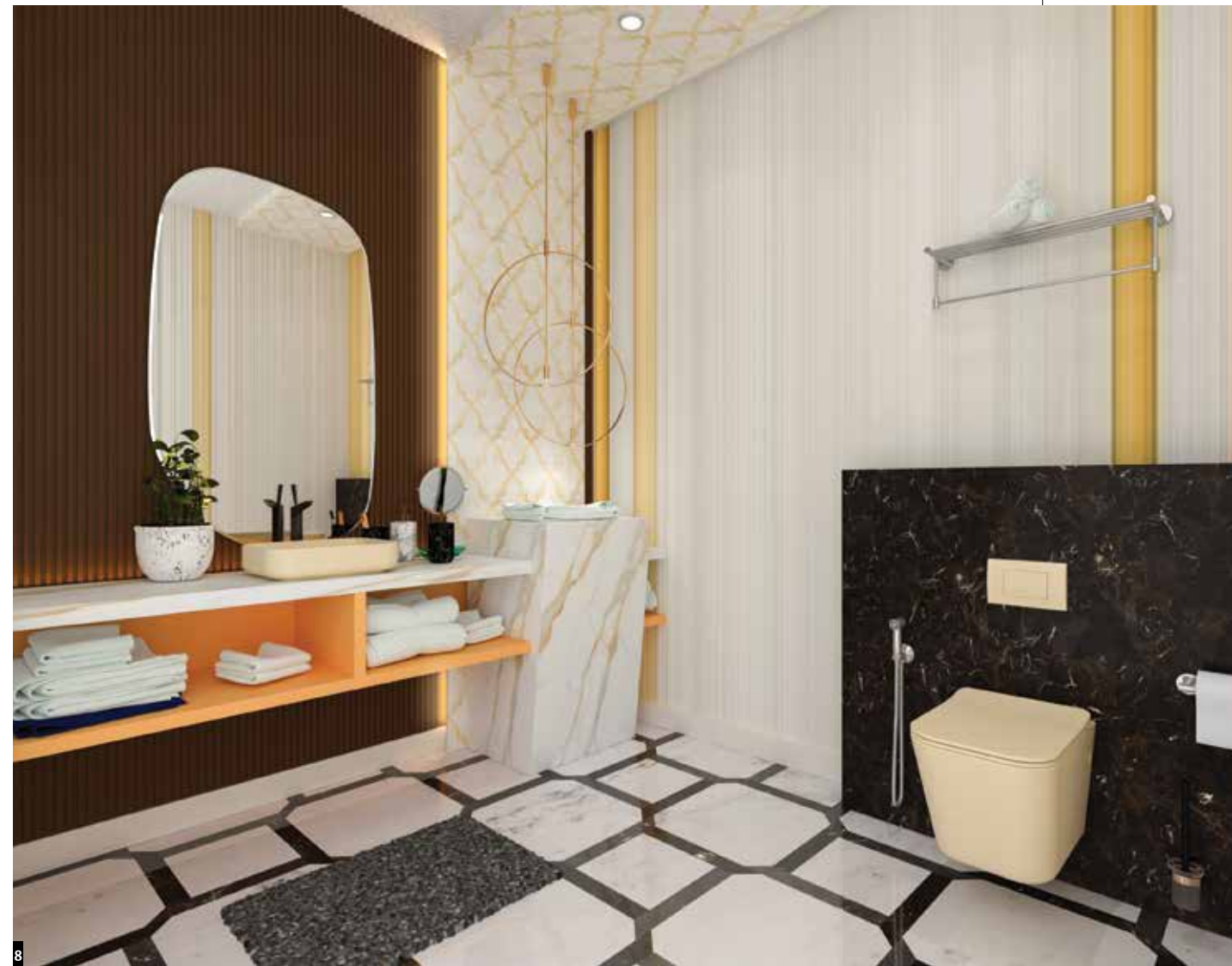
7. GROHE Plus Digital Faucet's LED display is covered with white acrylic glass for a subtle look. The digital temperature indicator allows users to tailor the water temperature precisely to their needs. For maximum safety, this display changes colour from blue to red on a spectrum depending on the water temperature.

TECH EDGE

Sensors in fittings and fixtures, push button technology



in place of levers, numerous modes of shower outputs, automatic flushing and integrated flushing/ cleaning and seat warming within WCs are in. Additionally, there are ways one can integrate 'Alexa' to control some functions or settings depending on the level of automation the fitting has. Experiences are elevated with tech lighting, surround sound mechanisms and action-voice controlled robots. "At Maia Estates, we take things a notch higher - through technology, we are even able to educate our residents about the amount of water consumed, creating a provision for water preservation. State-of-the-art technology is being used to make bathrooms more relaxing. Smart bathrooms offer



lighting that are designed to match one's circadian rhythms. DTV+ showering systems help create personalised showers by setting sounds, water stream, and lighting preferences to one's liking with the touch of a mobile or simply through voice is possible," says Rishad Khergamwala, Director Developments, Maia Estates. Now, one can even start their shower with just their voice and the ambiance is perfect by the time one reaches the bathroom.

BEING SMART

The terms bathroom and technology never coincided until the importance of creating a "smart" washroom was realised. Technology has enabled a great range of automated amenities for a comfortable and efficient bathroom experience. It goes beyond the presence of a few hand-held devices. Incorporating a Smart mirror that digitally assists your time in the bathroom or shower features such as chromotherapy and waterfall showers add a lot of zest to the entire bath space. In addition, including steam and a sauna inside the confined space can help make the most of the area as it offers multiple functions within the same floor space. "Moving forward with technological advancement, exotic showers that provide more than a conventional shower experience are attractive additions to the private room," says Anil Ahuja, Managing Director, Colston Bath and Spa Pvt. Ltd.

DESIGN QUOTIENT

Architects have the difficult task of balancing aesthetics



8. The concept of basic bathroom design has evolved into more varied designs inspired by unconventional materials.

9. New age designers try to make the most of existing bathrooms by providing more recent and functional fixtures.

10. Anil Ahuja, Managing Director, Colston Bath and Spa

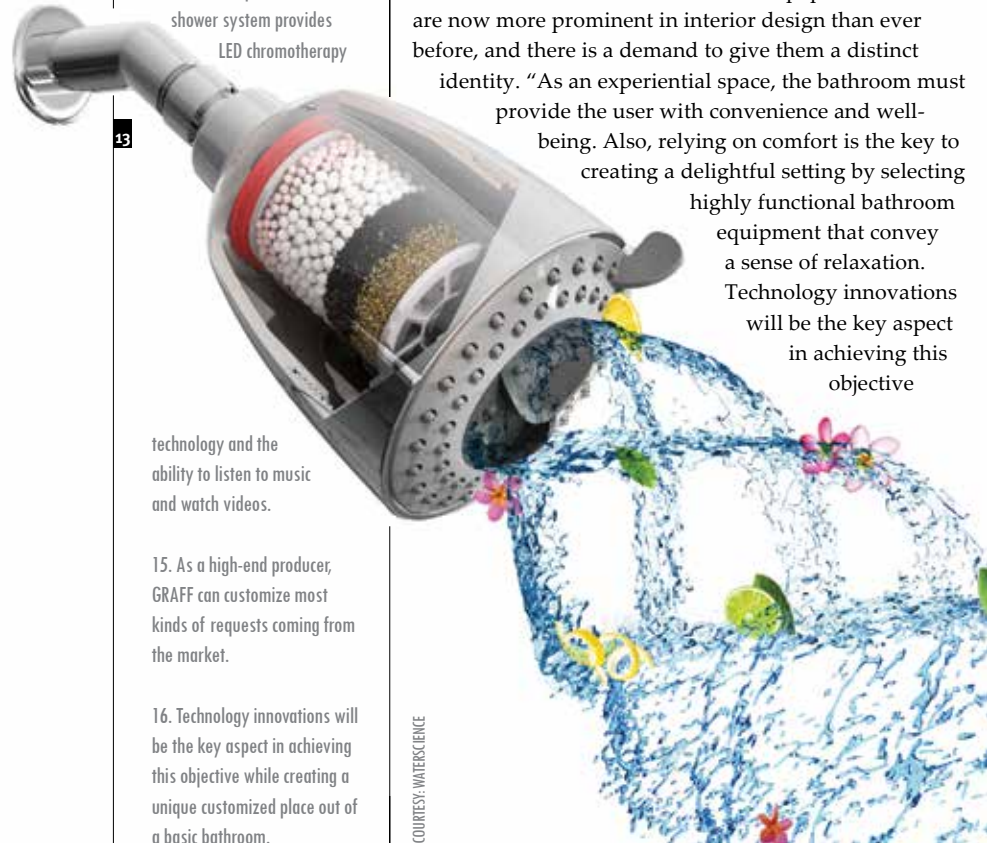


11. Sunil Jasani, Principal Designer & Co Founder, Fine Lines Designers

12. Ar. Anil Badan, Founder, Studio B.

13. Apart from filtering water, these shower heads by WateScience also save up to 70% water in the mist mode. The AromaTherapy Shower Filters also come with natural essential oil pads that make your showering experience fragrant.

14. GRAFF's Aqua-sense shower system provides LED chromotherapy



15. As a high-end producer, GRAFF can customize most kinds of requests coming from the market.

16. Technology innovations will be the key aspect in achieving this objective while creating a unique customized place out of a basic bathroom.



and practicality when installing tech related bathroom products. "Remotes are kept accessible but not noticeable at first glance. They need not be placed on front elevations but on the sides of cabinets where they can be accessed," explains Sunil Jasani, Principal Designer & Co Founder, Fine Lines Designers. Harsh and sharp lines are beginning to get replaced by smoother curves and silhouettes as buyers seek a less stark appeal in bathroom aesthetics. There has been an increase in the trend of introducing soft shades of green, blue and grey into bathroom areas, accentuated with feature tiles and wallpapers. Bathrooms are now more prominent in interior design than ever before, and there is a demand to give them a distinct identity. "As an experiential space, the bathroom must provide the user with convenience and well-being. Also, relying on comfort is the key to creating a delightful setting by selecting highly functional bathroom equipment that convey a sense of relaxation. Technology innovations will be the key aspect in achieving this objective



15. while creating a unique, customised place out of a basic bathroom," says Ar. Anil Badan, Founder, Studio B.

GREEN FACTOR

Also, there has been an increase in usage of energy efficient products, compactness of machines, water saving technology, and innovations in design. Sustainable product development can help to add comfort and hygiene in restroom products. Water saving shower filters and

COURTESY: WATESCIENCE



COURTESY: STUDIO B



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aromatherapy shower filters are trending. "Apart from filtering water, these shower heads also save up to 70 per cent water in the mist mode. The aromatherapy shower filters also come with natural essential oil pads that make your showering experience fragrant. One main consideration is the water used in the bathroom - for bathing, washing, flushing - these are activities that consume a significant amount of water," says Mohammed Iqbal, Co-founder, Waterscience. Ziggy Kulig, President & CEO at GRAFF, adds, "GRAFF's R&D department often considers new technologies and smart solutions when planning the development of new products. However, the company's concern for human health and the environment is always at the base of the development of any new collection. It always acts as a filter for new technologies which are carefully evaluated and implemented only when fully complying with GRAFF policies."

IN CONCLUSION

The good news is, technological products can be retrofitted



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COURTESY: DOLPHY INDIA

in an existing bathroom. "The universal mounting system and touchless technology are very easy to integrate with existing features. It eliminates huge costs while adding a touch of luxury to your space," says Bhagirath Sorathiya, Founder & CEO, Dolphy. Smriti Raheja Sawhney, Founder, DesignEx, concludes, "The perception of bathrooms among people has seen a drastic change in the past few years. People have started spending more time in bathrooms. Bathrooms are not just places to pass through anymore. They have shifted into a place of relaxation and rejuvenation. And technology is making the bathrooms more luxurious and at the same time, smart and sustainable." ■

WEBSITES:

- Vitra Bathrooms India: www.vitra-india.com
- Fine Lines Designers: www.finelinesdesigners.com
- Dolphy: www.dolphy.in
- MAIA Estates: www.maiaestates.in
- Colston Bath and Spa Pvt. Ltd.: www.colston.co
- GRAFF: www.graff-designs.com/en
- Waterscience: www.waterscience.in
- Studio B: www.studiob-design.in
- GROHE: www.grohe.com/en/corporate/homepage.html
- DesignEx: www.online.designexstudio.com

17. Aqaasee faucet by Vitra.

18&19. There has been an increase in usage of energy efficient products, compactness of machines, water saving technology, and innovations in design. Sustainable product development can help to add comfort and hygiene in restroom products.

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