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Kitchens and Bathrooms Evolve To Complement Contemporary Lifestyles in 2006

DreamMaker Bath and Kitchen Announces the Hottest Design Trends to Expect

WACO, Texas – Dec.19, 2005 – The New Year will bring a new look as homes continue to evolve to meet the needs of contemporary lifestyles, according to DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen by Worldwide®, one of the nation's largest remodeling franchises. Based on feedback received from its franchise network, DreamMaker defined the hottest design trends consumers will see in 2006, as kitchen and bath upgrades remain at the top of homeowners' lists for remodeling projects in a booming industry.

In both rooms, consumers will seek a consistent look in fixtures throughout the house; kitchen and bathroom faucets in brushed nickel, chrome and oil-rubbed bronze will be the leading choices. Nature will inspire some of the hottest design trends with granite or quartz countertops and hardwood and stone tile floors being top picks. Dimmers installed into lighting will allow the homeowner to adjust the lighting to fit the mood of the room.

Kitchens

The long-respected wall between the kitchen and the living room will be torn down to create a larger space that is more conducive to family togetherness. Combining kitchen and living spaces will allow both rooms to appear larger and will be excellent for entertaining. DreamMaker Bath and Kitchen calls this union "the gathering room."

In growing numbers, countertop peninsulas will be exchanged for spacious islands with storage features and accessories. Designers will incorporate storage solutions to alleviate the countertop clutter as well. Maple and cherry finishes will adorn traditional cabinetry that has undergone an ergonomic makeover to include roll-out shelves and recycling-friendly, drawer-style trashcans that are quietly tucked out of sight. Some homeowners will forego traditional cabinetry altogether and ask for open shelves that will house a collection of perfectly sized baskets used for storage.

Features previously only seen in commercial kitchens will find a home in residential kitchens, including warming drawers and dual kitchen sinks that define separate food preparation areas.

Stainless steel appliances will continue to be the first choice and bring a state-of-the-art feel to cozy kitchens.

Bathrooms

Homeowners will increasingly expect a relaxing spa experience at home, resulting in bathrooms with a whole new meaning. Larger in size, these modern bathrooms will have features that are designed for comfort and relaxation. Some bathrooms will be large enough to have a dressing area.

Air jet tubs, with dozens of powerful jets creating an all-over bubbling sensation, will become a popular choice over the swirling and bubbling of traditional whirlpool tubs. While in other homes, bathtubs are removed altogether to allow space for a spacious, extravagant shower.

Showers will evolve into larger, walk-in style areas with multiple shower heads, and in 2006 you can expect to see fewer shower curtains as homeowners choose glass shower doors. Seating will be installed into modern showers as well to provide an excellent place to enjoy a long steam shower, another popular feature for the year ahead.

After a long, relaxing shower or bath, homeowners' feet will be greeted by warm tile that has been heated from underneath the surface. Old-world décor will inspire some homeowners to choose ornate, framed mirrors to hang over their vanity. Vanities will become a little taller and under-mount sinks will be a popular choice, giving a seamless flow from countertop to sink. Pedestal sinks will also be a common pick.

"As the modern family changes, so does home design," said Doug Dwyer, president and owner of DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen. "We enjoy creating spaces that are not only functionally sound and efficient, but beautiful and relaxing at the same time."

About DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen by Worldwide:

Based in Waco, Texas, DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen by Worldwide has approximately 190 independently owned and operated franchises in 11 countries and has been in more than 2 million homes. Honored as the National Remodeler of the Year by Professional Remodeler magazine, the company is also a national member of the National Kitchen and Bath Association, the National Association of the Remodeling Industry, the Remodelers Council of the National Association of Home Builders and the International Franchising Association. For more information, call DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen at (800) 583-9099, or visit the web site at www.DreamMaker-remodel.com.