



Dr Steve Cummings Shares his ISH Insights

April 2015

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integrated Technology



Integrated electronics are being utilised in the bathroom at an increasing rate.

This incorporation is becoming further resolved at the design stage and aesthetically pleasing as opposed to looking like additions to an existing design.

Shower toilet seat designs were presented that reduced the bulk and visual inconsistency of previous designs. These designs were more in line with a standard looking toilet seat and installation.

New initiatives to achieve energy reduction are emerging in the bathroom. This particular trend demonstrates a move towards energy conservation, with water conservation still important.

A European water consumption labeling scheme is in place which provides information on products, and promotes water conservation in bathrooms and kitchens.

Increased use of technology in the delivery systems for water and tapware.

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Hygiene



In previous years the trend of “wellness” had been very pervasive. This trend has since been divided into the two more focused trends of hygiene and comfort.

Hygiene, combined with other technologies, was driving many of the trends shown at ISH.

The ease of cleaning and the elimination of rims from toilet suites allows for thorough cleaning inside the bowl, resulting in improved hygiene.

Anti-bacterial finishes in Vitreous China and toilet seat materials were seen to be on the increase. In addition, thin design of toilet seats with the reduction of recesses and other details presented easier to clean surfaces.

The focus on hygiene prevailed over the overall design aesthetic for toilet suites.

ISH confirmed the recently launched Liano, Urbane and Contura toilet suites are clearly on trend.



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Comfort



User versatility and functionality for greater comfort were key this year.

Customisation and flexibility of tapware, based on user interaction was an interesting feature. Offering size options, longer mixer bodies and spouts assists users across a wider range of applications e.g. tapware is being used to fill vessels and not just hand washing.



The integration of toilets with shower seats improves user comfort. These systems include heated toilet seats, odour extraction and washing controls designed to enhance and produce a better bathroom experience.

Comfort solutions for care products displayed at ISH were a highlight.

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Care



There was a definite move to make the care space more friendly and less institutional.

Colour is being introduced selectively, following seasonal colour trends to assist in making these spaces more universal in their appeal.

There is a clear focus on special care needs including bathing, adjustable heights in toilets and basins and heavy duty toilet seats for bariatric applications.

This increased interest has been shared by the research institutions in Europe as well. A leading European University presented a study into bathrooms of the future for those aged over 50.

This study included clever solutions for aged care such as the "Mobile Helper". Designed on a tripod principle, this products acts as a standing prop, walking aid, towel rack and has helped make the bathroom experience more comfortable, supporting independence and flexibility.

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Design Story

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Design.



There was a focus by companies on “design thinking” and the sharing of company processes that lead towards key strategies and product design solutions.

Elements of the process included prototyping and testing.



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Thin Approach



The thin approach to design was a strong trend for ISH 2015.

This trend was shown in a number of toilet seats and lids resulting in a softer, fresh look that influenced the overall appearance of the toilet suite.

The emerging thin approach has had an influence on our design approach as seen in the Liano (left) and Contura ranges.

The thin approach was also seen used in vanity bench tops and basins, even bathtubs.

Concealed cistern buttons are also trending thinner, with one concept shown to be completely recessed into the tiles for a seamless integrated look.



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Rimless Technology



There was again a strong representation of 'rimless' toilet suite technology from European manufacturers.

The focus was on ease of cleaning and flushing performance.



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Storage



A growing number of integrated storage solutions was an interesting direction.

We saw both tapware and showers being built into various types of bathroom furniture, cabinetry and hardware.

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Industrial Aesthetic



The industrial look, while it was strong at the most recent Milan fair, it was less prevalent at ISH 2015.

Though a number of interesting concepts were presented, it is still an emerging trend in the Australian design market.



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