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15 Must-See Products From KBIS 2013

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Despite a strengthening economy and an improving housing market, trade shows continue to see challenges.

Most recently, the Kitchen and Bath Industry Show held its annual conference in New Orleans, and the story remains the same.

Designed for kitchen and bath designers, architects, contractors and builders, the show historically has been a place to see some of the coolest products, but it has seen declining attendance during the recession. The Hackettstown, N.J.-based National Kitchen and Bath Association, which manages the show, has not released the 2013 attendance figures yet, but crowd appeared to be flat (at best).

But it wasn't all bad news. There were still good proudcts to see. The pickings were slim, but some manufacturers launched noteworthy products for those designers, architects and builders who made the effort to attend the show.

If you didn't make the trip to New Orleans, here are 15 cool products that we like.

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Mansfield Plumbing Products: The Essence HET use only 1.28 gallons per flush and features a sleek design than with a smooth contoured tank and lid. Additional features include a concealed trapway for easier cleaning and a 3-inch flush valve. www.mansfieldplumbing.com

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