

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

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KBIS Review

Big-brand no-shows may have tempered the buzz of this year's Kitchen & Bath Industries Show, but the prevailing mood was surprisingly upbeat. Many manufacturers played it safe by expanding existing lines or reengineering them to improve water and energy efficiency, while others embraced superficiality: new finishes, textured surface treatments, and an emphasis on flush installations. — *Jen Renzi*

Counter culture

Green leader Teragren introduces bamboo countertops in three styles: traditional, strand, and end-grain strand. Panels measuring 36" x 72" x 1.5" come either unfinished or treated with food-safe coating of mineral oil and beeswax. Naturally resistant to bacteria, the material is well suited to kitchen and bath applications and can also be used for furnishings. The strand version—which is 154-percent harder than oak—is made with a non-urea binder and, like all three options, contributes to LEED certification. Teragren oversees the harvesting of its mature bamboo, sustainably farmed in China's Zhejiang province. Teragren Fine Bamboo Flooring, Panels & Veneer, Bainbridge Island, Wash. www.teragren.com

