

AROUND THE HOUSE

New sink designs make a splash in the bathroom

By Susan Fornoff

One may choose sink over swim when it comes to remodeling the bathroom, judging from a couple of innovative sinks that have swum this way recently.

Tom Sullivan and Joanne Chen's company, Totally Bamboo, has been creating kitchen products such as cutting boards, bowls and even countertops from the eco-friendly material for 10 years. So the bamboo sink may not seem like much of a stretch — to them, anyway.

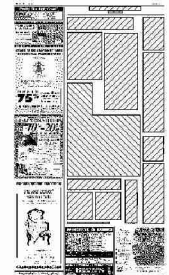
The hand-turned, 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch-thick vessel sink is 17 inches wide and 6 inches deep. Because it's sealed in waterproof polyurethane, there's a 10-year guarantee — not a long time by sink standards, but that doesn't mean it won't last longer than 10 years.

The Totally Bamboo sink will be available in August, for about \$499, at www.totallybamboo.com.

At the Bath + Beyond (777 Connecticut St., San Francisco), one can shop for a unique sculptural sink from Germany's Alape that starts at \$3,185. It's a freestanding column with no storage inside — a complete waste of space in a tiny bathroom, but a focal point in a bigger one. The oval column tops out the suggested retail price list, at \$4,813. Visit www.alape.com and choose English to see more art sinks.



Alape's column sink, above, is freestanding with no interior storage. Totally Bamboo's vessel sink, below, is sealed in waterproof polyurethane and has a 10-year guarantee.





5 SURPRISING USES FOR A CAN OF SPRAY PAINT

Rust-Oleum has a product it's calling Universal — with good reason. It's a spray paint that works on just about any item, inside or outside the home, including things made of plastic, metal, wicker and glass — in most cases without a primer. Colors include eight glossies, two satins (black, white), a flat black, silver and gold metallics and three hammered hues (black, brown, silver).

Find it at Home Depot, Lowe's, Ace and other stores, at prices ranging from \$6 to \$9 a can, depending on promotion. And get going:

- ▶ Paint old ceramic or plaster planters Canary Yellow.
- ▶ Give plastic patio furniture some zip — Cardinal Red, maybe, or a rich Espresso Brown.
- ▶ Paint the shelves on a bookcase in a kid's room — Hunter Green, perhaps, or shining Titanium Silver.
- ▶ Unify a wall of family photos by painting all the frames the same color.
- ▶ Freshen up any garage sale or flea market find: stemware, accent tables, lamp shades, plastic trash cans, metal or wooden chairs, even track lighting.

Rust-Oleum's new Universal will paint just about anything.



Vacuum tells you when it's done

Hoover produced its first electric vacuum cleaner in 1908; in 1957, it produced its best-selling model, the Convertible, or Model 65, an upright that could be converted with a hose for above-the-floor cleaning.

We'll spare you the rest of the company history and raise a glass to its 100th anniversary. Hoover, of course, prefers that we all clean in its honor, using one of the five models in its latest line, the Anniversary Edition. Unlike Nos. 1 and 65, these all use high-level-cleaning WindTunnel technology, which gives the user a green light when an area is completely cleaned.

There's a bagged model, a bagless model, a self-propelled and a bagged canister — but looks-wise, the winner is the Convertible, which is bagged or bagless depending on what buttons the user pushes; it comes in bronze metallic at a suggested price of about \$250.



Hoover's Anniversary Edition Convertible vacuum.

Kit for keeping baby safe

At last, a baby shower gift guaranteed not to get an "Aw, how cute" in response yet guaranteed to be appreciated as much as, if not more than, the cute stuff.

The Child Safety Kit contains dozens of little gizmos designed to childproof a home. To name a few: swiveling outlet covers, designed to block access by small hands; cabinet and drawer locks, which let doors open to only 1½ inches; table corner cushions, to soften the inevitable impacts; cord winders, to make window blinds safer; wire loom, to camouflage cord bundles from kids.

The kit retails for \$57.84 and can be ordered at (866) 222-0030 or cableorganizer.com/child-safety-kit.



A cornucopia of devices for keeping little ones away from household dangers.