



Commercial bathrooms are built to withstand high traffic.

Constantly innovating industry professionals aim to enhance the ease of use and create quality products that can be relied upon for the long run. Sustainability, being the need of the hour, is applied to this segment of the manufacturing industry through means of various technologies. Commercial toilet fixtures, plumbing supplies as well as washroom accessories, all find their way to the market, upgraded with smart features.

Washrooms in workspaces, especially, have come a long way from being just utilitarian. The key to a successful washroom is the integration of both practicality and aesthetics in a balanced form. The upcoming products are manufactured offering water conservation, vandal resistance and an unordinary figure. It is particularly important for commercial fixtures to cater to the new technological trends and carry the theme of the overall facility forward.

Graff, an international luxury manufacturer, has positioned itself at the forefront of design creating trendsetting products with a unique vision. Talking about the changing trends in this segment, Emanuela Tavolini, director of sales – Europe, Graff, mentions, "The main trend we can see in the bathroom segment is an increasing attention towards designing this environment by aligning with the 'spa' concept. The bathroom is no longer just a "washroom", it becomes an area in which wellness and relaxation are pursued. In this respect, technology has played an unequivocal part, allowing faucets and shower systems to offer – together with the traditional water functions – many other spa-like facilities."

Ever-changing designs and utilities mark the reforms in this

industry. According to general public-bathroom behaviour, users tend to avoid touching surfaces and fixtures as much as possible. This also helps promote hygiene in the facility throughout and reduces wear and tear of fixtures due to frequent use. Hence, hands-free features, touch-less cleaning tools, along with those that reduce the use of water and paper, scour-free and high-end surfacing, etc, have developed over time. Sensor-equipped faucets ensure water savings through automatic shut-offs. Other low-flow fixtures offer appreciable long-term operational and environmental benefits, as compared to traditional fixtures. Meanwhile, touch-free hand dryer helps avoid excess waste of paper,



Emanuela Tavolini, director, Sales – Europe, Graff

According to general public-bathroom behaviour, users tend to avoid touching the surfaces and fixtures as much as possible. This has helped expand the market for hands-free fixtures.



(left and right) Faucets by Graff that help lend a spa-like feel to commercial washrooms.



thereby, cutting expenses as well as maintenance.

Gautam Ghosal, executive director, Schell India, strongly believes that there is a major market for sensor technology mainly because of the convenience that it provides. "Considering that the entire operation is driven by electronics, manufacturers have focused on the robustness of the technology, thereby increasing the usage and acceptance. On the water conservation front, we are aware of low-volume WC flush combined with infrared sensing and electronic actuation. Similarly, minimalistic trends are seen in the ceramics and other bath fittings too. Thermostats are well considered and we also have the thermostat electronic wash basin tap. The rim-less WC has also been added to the product range by most manufacturers," shares Ghosal.

By deploying various water-saving fixtures, BMC Software has saved nearly one million litres of water and recurring maintenance costs annually.

- Captain Kenneth Paul



Gautam Ghosal, executive director, Schell India



Captain Kenneth Paul, director, real estate and facilities - APAC & India Region, BMC Software.

Many trends come and go but the ones that provide meaningful benefits to the building as approved by the facility managers stand the test of time.

With over 25 years of experience in the facility management industry, Captain Kenneth Paul, director, real estate and facilities - APAC & India Region for BMC Software Inc in Pune, states, "Our company has always ensured that it maintains world-class facilities that provide great employee workplace experience to engender pride, encourage collaboration and promote green initiatives. By deploying various water-saving fixtures, the project has helped save nearly one million litres of water annually and also saved recurring maintenance costs usage of almost one million every year."