

Tour of LuxeHome at the Merchandise Mart

Posted on [July 19, 2012](#) by [Patricia](#)

I'm always impressed when I see the Chicago Merchandise Mart. It is an enormous Art Deco structure, built in 1931 by Marshall Field & Co. to house its wholesale showrooms and manufacturing facilities. At that time, the building was the world's largest, containing over four million square feet of floor space.

During **KBIS 2012**, I took the opportunity of touring **LuxeHome**, located on the first floor of the Merchandise Mart. LuxeHome describes itself as “the world's largest collection of premier boutiques for home building and renovation.” It is open to the public, offering homeowners and trade professionals access to a wide variety of luxury products for the home, all in one convenient location. I allowed an entire day for the tour and still saw only a small portion of what LuxeHome has to offer—which included its wonderful 2012 DreamHome. Here is just a sampling from the boutiques:



[Poggenpohl](#) introduced its new ARTESIO kitchen concept in walnut veneer, designed in collaboration with architect and designer Hadi Teherani. The concept is seeking to build a visual bridge between cooking and living by including all three dimensions: from the floor and walls right through to the ceiling. The wall units are wired for lighting and electricity, so the kitchen may be placed without concern for the existing wiring. I really liked the 5" high wall louvers that allow shelves to be placed and then adjusted when desired.



[Ernestomeda Chicago](#) announced its Emetrica Kitchen cabinets with an impressive display. This elegant cabinet line is exceedingly minimal and discreet. The horizontal grip grooves and the handles on the cupboards blend in so completely with the rest of the furnishings, I had to examine the cabinets closely first, before I could see how to open them.



[de Giulio kitchen design](#) unveiled Metal Boy, a freestanding cabinet designed by Mick de Giulio as an alternative to the traditional pot rack. Cookware is stored in a highly-functional enclosed space, illuminated with LEDs. I

was really taken with this absolutely gorgeous cabinet, crafted in distressed nickel silver, polished stainless steel, ebonized walnut and glass.

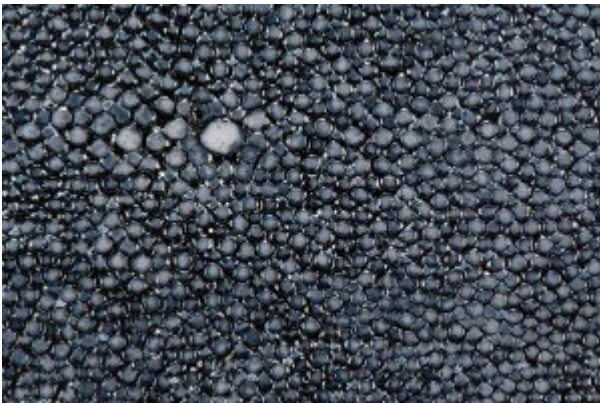


[Hastings Tile & Bath's](#) entire showroom is filled with exciting new contemporary bath products, from its new line of ceramic basins, to the Hastings Bamboo collection, to the newest Sonia collections.



[Ann Sacks](#) products were featured in the Kohler booth at KBIS, but its showroom at LuxeHome had so much more on display. The incredible new tile collections are all about unique textures and shimmering glazes. Here are two examples:

The Ogassian line of ceramic tile by Daniel Ogassian — the example here is named “Japanese Geo.” Just stunning!



The Shagreen line of tile, composed of the spine and skin of a stingray bordered in bone and featuring a spine marking called a “star.” This is one tile you *have* to touch!