


# METROPOLIS



ARCHITECTURE AND  
DESIGN AT ALL SCALES  
January/February 2019

## Tech Aims High

Behind the  
Scenes at  
Hudson Yards

Game Changers  
2019

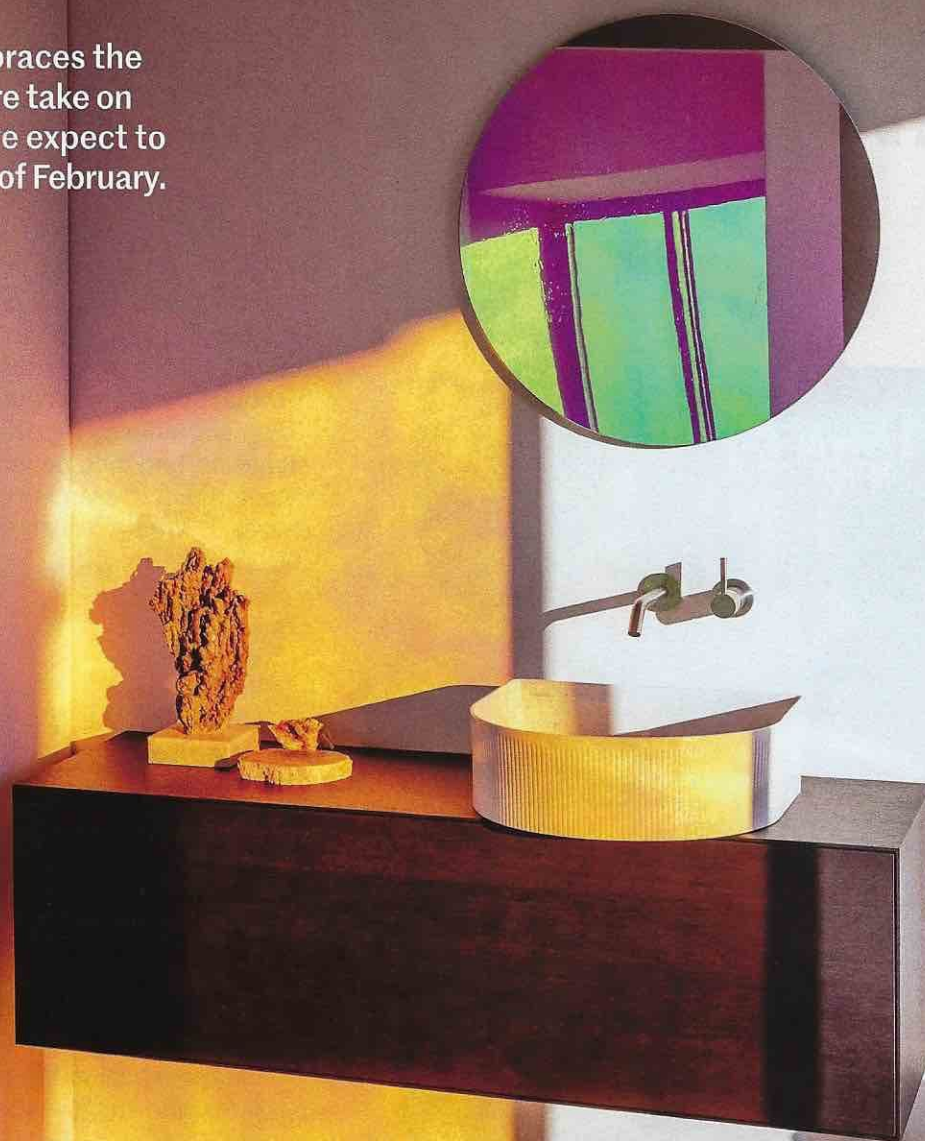
Data and  
Design  
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# PRODUCTSPHERE

## Ornamental Minimalism

Kitchen and bath embraces the moment's more-is-more take on modernism, a trend we expect to see at KBIS at the end of February.

By Katie Okamoto



01 SONAR  
Patricia Urquiola for Laufen, [us.laufen.com](http://us.laufen.com)

Kitchen and bath products are specially suited to modernism's prescriptions, existing by definition to meet the most humble of everyday functions. But the persistence of stylistic flourishes—the flirtatious curve of a sink, the blooming bulb of a knob—is proof enough that we crave pleasure in the routine. A fresh crop of kitchen and bath designs meets in the middle, embodying a kind of ornamental minimalism.

Patricia Urquiola's Sonar collection for Laufen, which debuted in Milan last year and officially launched in the United States in

December, sets a clear tone for this aesthetic moment. It makes use of Laufen's thin-walled SaphirKeramik, but embellishes the architectural restraint with a subtle three-dimensional relief, inspired by waves.

On the following page, you'll find similarly tailored profiles, free of formal excess, that have been softened by surface details, whether that be a texture or high-end finish—kitchen or bathroom versions of a mod shift dress rendered in brocade. Call it a quiet rebellion against the cold steel trends of a few years ago and a softening toward our daily human tasks.