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design, and marketing consulting firm Nada Associates, based in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania.

“For this reason, we see more natural finishes versus highly polished ones. The increased desire for copper, bronze, silver, and brass is part of society’s tendency to return to nature in times of uncertainty.”

Class Act Let’s face it: Elegance is timeless, even in the bathroom. “For lighting, we’re seeing more sconces as well as lamps” rather than overhead fixtures, according to interior designer Felicia Hoffenberg of FRH Design Consultants in New York City. “Smaller framed mirrors are replacing the walls of mirroring at the sink area.” And kitchen design is slowly streaming into the bathroom.

For example, gooseneck faucets are being shown by numerous manufacturers; they add a touch of grace

to the vanity. Hansa America recently launched its Hansa Designo line, including the sleek yet simple Basin gooseneck faucet. And KWC’s Vesuno line of upright goosenecks come in a variety of styles, with temperature-limiting spouts in soft (polished) or techno (matte) finishes.

Turning Back In a time of electronic faucet sensors and heated floor tiles, it’s comforting to know we’re still looking to the past for design tips. Hoffenberg has witnessed “a strong European influence, mainly English, in bathroom design with old-fashioned yet updated fixtures.”

This trend extends across the

board. American Standard’s Enfield Suite bathing tub, for example, offers a classic Shaker style, with straight wooden legs that hold the tub above the floor. And some units, while inspired by tradition, look decidedly modern. An example? Porcher by American Standard’s Lagaro Free-Standing Tub harks back to Europe, with a classic claw-foot design in contemporary acrylic.

Classic console vanities have made a comeback. Faucets, too, are turning back the clock. Delta’s Victorian Collection features faucets (in addition to tub/shower units and accessories) made of solid brass in a variety of

finishes, including the new Venetian Bronze.



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—Nada Napoletan
Rutka, design
consultant