



FLUSH

This cutaway from Toto, the world's leading toilet manufacturer, shows how certain design elements get the most out of 1.6 gallons of water. When depressed, the flush lever raises the red valve, whose extra width (3 inches) allows water to plummet from the tank into the siphon jet with extra force. Toto's siphon jet—in which rushing water sucks soiled water down from the bowl—is angled for extra force and velocity.

6 Pipe By Marcel Wanders for Boffi \$2477

As a shower, this simple, oversized U-pipe is a refreshing break from "customized" multiple nozzles and high-tech massage showerheads that stare back blankly like stainless steel sunflowers. Water in your house usually comes up from the ground, not from a lake behind the bathroom wall; plumbing can look complex, but rarely involves more than basic mechanics. The Pipe acknowledges those simplicities and delivers, in the words of the designer, "a waterfall . . . a thick stream of cleansing fresh water." Available at www.boffi.com.

7 M13 Bathroom Set Modus Design \$35

Inspired by industrial lab equipment, Marek Cecula and Daga Kopala designed this affordable six-piece bathroom set—a must for anyone nostalgic for intimate times with

beakers. Sober, practical, and Swiss-looking, the high-fired porcelain pieces will bring on a clean feeling, even if your toiletries (unlike those pictured here) consist of a mushy Lever bar, teal toothpaste drippings, and bent Q-Tips. In fact, that sort of contrast is advisable, because in this tidy set, an array of matching Neutrogena products might be scarier than the mildly biohazardous stuff. Available at www.dmd-products.com.

8 Sorry, Bubble Engaged By Hector Serrano & Lola Llorca Approximately \$7 (Beloved swarthy Manolo not for sale)

At the outskirts of the "100% Design" exhibition in London, Lola Llorca and Hector Serrano deconstructed household activities in the show "Manolo Is Gonna Have Fun." Beloved swarthy Manolo threw food around on a Frisbee/plate and jumped on his coffee table/trampoline. Here in his bath, he plays with a sponge that is good for bubble-

making. The product is not yet on the market but might be soon. Note this disclaimer: "Use only as directed. Intentional misuse can be excellent, even more fun." For information, email lolallorca@latinmail.com.

9 Braille Tiles By Dennis Lin for Klinik \$25 per tile

Legible bumps are wonderful in all sizes. Small ones, for Braille neophytes, are intriguing and mysterious; big ones are friendly and potentially instructive. Dennis Lin's 6-by-12-inch white Braille tiles are available as blanks and as every letter in the alphabet. They are molded from a cast polymer—stuff that starts as a goo but dries harder than ceramic—and covered with gel coat surfacing. Unlike most ceramic, they are strong enough to walk on. At a recent design show, Lin used the tiles to write Zen phrases. But whatever they spell on the shower walls, most people will never know. Available at www.openklinik.com.



CONTROL

What lies within this minimalist "JO Shower" faucet by Lefroy Brooks? Answer: a thermostatic valve. Popular demand for temperature precision (down to degrees Fahrenheit), and a greedy desire to carry more water (up to 18 gallons per minute), have ushered the invention of a multi-valved mega-valve, at the heart of which is a sensitive paraffin thermo element that carefully adjusts flow of hot and cold.