

OCEAN DRIVE





Jeff and Michael Guanche focus on form as well as function at their Decorator's Plumbing showroom in the Design District.

Water World

MIAMI NATIVES **MICHAEL AND JEFF GUANCHE** MAKE IT THEIR BUSINESS TO CRAFT THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BATHS IN LUXURY HOMES AND RESORTS IN SOUTH FLORIDA—AND BEYOND. **BY JEAN NAYAR**

As designers and developers continue to raise the bar on new luxury dwellings in Miami, much of their attention in upping the quality quotient now focuses on creating spa-inspired baths. Locally, those aiming to craft the sweetest retreats often rely on the savvy and skill of Michael and Jeff Guanche to help them pull off these spaces with up-to-the-minute finesse.

The brothers have spent the past two decades bringing together a vast and thorough selection of fine fixtures, fittings, and hardware for luxury baths in their 3,000-square-foot showroom in the Design District—and in the process have become a favored source for high-profile professionals working on high-end projects.

“Since Miami has sophisticated home buyers from all over the world, consumers know good quality and design, so the lines we carry at our showroom are the best of the best,” says Michael, who has been running Decorator’s Plumbing, a free-standing three-story showroom/boutique, with his brother, Jeff, since joining their parents’ business full-time in 2006.

Their offerings include everything from rain shower heads, body sprays, specialty sinks, and towel bars to vanities, bidets, steam heads, and sculpted tubs. Representing

more than a hundred European, Asian, and US brands, such as Duravit, Dornbracht, Kohler, and Villeroy & Boch, to name a few, the Guanches aim to have every plumbing and hardware detail covered. The brothers also stay up to date on everything from preprogrammed water temperature controls and jet massaging foot baths to fresh takes on crystal drawer pulls and tubs made of statuary marble. Says Jeff, “Our clients depend on us to know what’s new in the luxury plumbing and hardware world.”

While many of today’s luxury baths now include such indulgences, the latest retreats are hardly the exclusive domain of sybarites. An increased emphasis on health and wellness—as well as eco-friendly design—has shifted the perception of a well-appointed bath from an extravagance to an essential for hygiene and well-being. So fittings and fixtures with elements like filtration systems, pulsed jets, and water-conservation features are becoming standard ingredients in the luxury bath mix. “Bathrooms have become more than function,” says Jeff. “They have become a reflection of their owners’ personality and style.” 3612 NE Second Ave., Miami, 305-576-0022; decoratorsplumbing.com **OD**

DETAILS, DETAILS

Always on the lookout for what’s next, Jeff and Michael Guanche say these three trends stand out now:

FRESH FINISHES:

“Warm metal finishes are on trend,” says Michael. “Brushed brass and matte black have been the top sellers.”

WET ROOMS:

“A wet room is basically a shower room that does away with the shower screen and tray and has an open, fully tiled shower area,” says Jeff. “The wet room also can have a tub, making the room totally wet.”

OLD-SCHOOL STYLE, NEW TECHNOLOGY:

“Freestanding soaking tubs and electronic toilets/bidets are also very hot right now,” says Michael.