

# THE WINNER TAKES IT ALL

The ek&bbusiness Awards & Review 2018 was a sparkling event – here's how the afternoon unfolded

Words **Danielle Lett**

**T**he festive season was in full swing on 29 November as around 500 of the kitchen and bathroom industry's top names made their way to The Brewery in London for yet another entertainment-packed ek&bbusiness Awards & Review.

In its third edition, the day was filled with copious amounts of champagne, a delicious three-course meal and star-studded entertainment, making the event another sparkling – and sold out – success.

Kicking off festivities was a champagne reception upon arrival, sponsored by Rotpunkt UK, allowing everyone to catch up and reminisce over the year gone by while enjoying a glass of bubbly. The event's host, ITV's chief commentator Clive Tyldesley, then took to the stage to begin the day's proceedings. The KBSA's former chairman Graham Hayden gave the industry Review of the Year, rounding off the news and memorable stories that took place over the course of 2018.

In between tucking into three mouth-watering courses, the audience was treated to a variety of entertainment, including the fantastic contemporary violinists Ember Trio, street dance troupe Frobacks, and a stand-up routine from award-winning comedian Ed Byrne.

Clive Tyldesley was then joined on stage by ek&bbusiness publisher Darren Summerfield and editor Leigh-Anne Roberts to present all of the award winners with their trophies, across a glittering 15 categories.

Rounding off the day's events was *Britain's Got Talent* semi-finalist Sarah Ikumu, who gave the crowd an outstanding rendition of Purple Rain.

"Congratulations to all of our winners!" said ek&bbusiness editor Leigh-Anne Roberts. "The quality of entries this year was phenomenal and made a hard task for myself and the judges. I'd like to thank all of our guests and the sponsors for creating such an energetic and enjoyable atmosphere."

» **Save the date:** ek&bbusiness Awards & Review 2019 will take place at The Brewery, London, on 28 November 2019. See you there!



"AS ALWAYS,  
ANOTHER FANTASTIC  
EK&BBUSINESS  
AWARDS & REVIEW –  
WE LOOK FORWARD  
TO DOING IT ALL  
AGAIN!"

**Steve Tough**, commercial sales director,  
Masterclass Kitchens



1 Guests take their seats ahead of an exciting afternoon at The Brewery 2 A glittering welcome to the event 3 Comedian Ed Byrne 4 Guests enjoy the festivities on the Frontline Bathrooms table 5 ITV's chief football commentator and ek&bbusiness Awards & Review host Clive Tyldesley



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**'Another great success!' – what the KBB industry thought of the day**

» "The #EKBBizAwards 2018 was another great success and even surpassed last year's outstanding event. It was, as always, an excellent industry networking event where we enjoy taking guests and catching up with industry friends. The entertainment was superb and it is already firmly in the diary for 2019!"  
**David Osborne, managing director, Roman**

» "It's always exciting to see so much innovation throughout the industry, and the EKBBiz Awards are an excellent platform to celebrate successes throughout 2018. The event was incredibly well organised and provided a great balance of entertainment and networking opportunities, so we're looking forward to returning next year – and perhaps being in the running for an award ourselves!"  
**Iskender Diker, sales director, Rangemaster**

» "As always, the event was a spectacular occasion. It is the perfect way to mark the start of the Christmas festivities, and it was such a pleasure to see so many people from our industry all in one room. We were all superbly entertained from the moment of arrival until the moment of departure"  
**Owain Harrison, country manager, Novy**

» "Congratulations to the ek&bbusiness team on a great event. The KBB team and I had a fantastic time, and it was brilliant to meet and catch-up with so many friends in the industry"  
**Mark Gordon, director for KBB, designjunction, and Sleep + Eat, UBM**

» "The ek&bbusiness Awards is the perfect event for ArtiCAD; its combination of retailers and key manufacturers makes it one of the most important events on the KBB calendar. Its desire to celebrate the industry makes it easy to not only network but socialise with friends, colleagues and clients alike. We can't wait for the next one!"  
**Tobias Waltham, national accounts manager, ArtiCAD**

» "As always, another fantastic awards ceremony – and what better way to end the year than celebrate with friends and colleagues within the industry. We look forward to doing it all again at the end of 2019. Well done to all involved!"  
**Steve Tough, commercial sales director, Masterclass Kitchens**

» "Great entertainment, food and drink – the ek&bbusiness Awards & Review is a fantastic event to enjoy meeting friends and acquaintances in a celebration of the advancement in product innovation, design and services to the KBB industry"  
**Nathan Maclean, managing director, Virtual Worlds**



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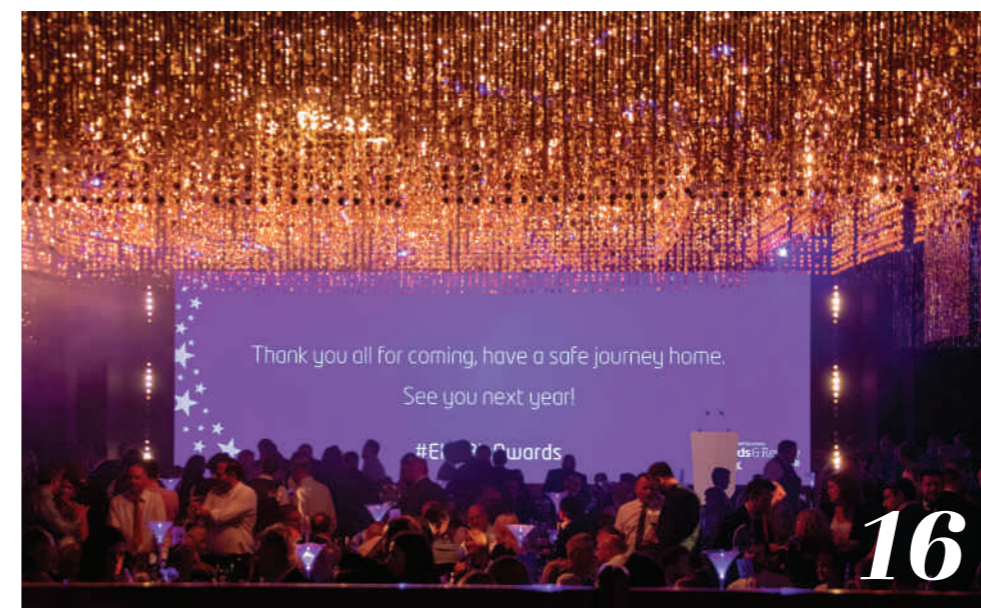
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**"THE EK&BBUSINESS AWARDS 2018 WAS ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS AND EVEN SURPASSED LAST YEAR'S OUTSTANDING EVENT. AN EXCELLENT INDUSTRY NETWORKING EVENT, IT IS ALREADY FIRMLY IN THE DIARY FOR 2019!"**

**David Osborne, managing director, Roman**



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11 Left to right: Grohe UK's key account manager James Sturdey, head of sales Paul Lewis, and sales director Garry Smith, DMC PR MD Susan Tyldesley, ek&bbusiness Awards & Review host Clive Tyldesley, DMC PR account manager Emma McSweeney, Grohe UK's marketing director Raj Mistry, marketing communications manager Kelly Everest, training manager Chris Penney, junior category manager Sanjeev Delipkumar, and senior category manager Paul Bailey  
12 Java Productions director Lesley Holdsworth 13 ek&bbusiness publisher Darren Summerfield, left, and comedian Ed Byrne  
14 Flash mob-style comedy dance troupe Frobacks 15 Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist Sarah Ikumu closes the event 16 Guests network as the afternoon's festivities come to an end

6 Clockwise from bottom left: Ripples managing director Paul Crow; Laufen regional sales manager Simon Baker; Ripples sales director Nicola Crow; Roca managing director Alan Dodds; Wildwood director Jeff Hayward; Stone & Chrome managing director Jim Gibson; Roca marketing manager Claire Gay; Stone & Chrome showroom manager Shane Fraser; Ripples marketing executive Chloe Chettleburgh; Laufen marketing manager Emma Mottram 7 Contemporary and pop strings band Ember Trio 8 Frontline Bathrooms CEO Nick Hall, left, and sales and marketing director Michael Sammon 9 Former KBSA CEO Graham Hayden 10 Left to right: Ergonorm's David Hanley and Chris Allen, Cosentino commercial sales manager Andrew Sims, Cambabest director Dali Pnaiser, Cosentino's senior client manager Lee Howe and Newmarket centre general manager Ross Stewart, Unique Stone Surfaces director Nelson Leal, and Cosentino marketing co-ordinator Laura Davie

# TROPHY WINNERS

Host Clive Tyldesley joined ek&bbusiness publisher Darren Summerfield and editor Leigh-Anne Roberts to present the 15 award winners with their trophies



## AWARDS

### BEST APPLIANCE INNOVATION

**Winner:** Samsung – QuickDrive Technology

Lannette Murray, business engagement manager – customer experience for Samsung UK, centre, and Floris Ruys, channel marketing manager for digital appliances, Samsung UK, second right, took to the stage to collect the Best Appliance Innovation accolade for the QuickDrive Technology

### BEST INSTALLER

**Winner:** Liberty Fitting Service  
**Category sponsor:** Impey

The team at Liberty Fitting Service took home the accolade for Best Installer, with Liberty director Thomas McAuley, third left, accepting the award, presented to him by Steve Huntly, group sales director from category sponsor Impey, third right, and BiKBBI CEO and ek&bbusiness Awards judge Damian Walters, second right



### BEST SURFACE

**Winner:** CRL Stone – Renaissance Collection  
**Category sponsor:** Masterclass Kitchens

CRL Stone's Best Surface win for the Renaissance Collection was taken home by David Inwood, sales manager, CR Laurence of Europe, third left, and CR Laurence sales director David Beckett, third right. They are pictured alongside category sponsor Masterclass Kitchens' commercial sales director Steve Tough, second right. Beckett commented: "It is great for everyone involved in the design and manufacturing of the product and for our retailers too, who can proudly say they offer an award-winning quartz surface"



### BEST ONLINE/SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

**Winner:** InSinkEerator – 4NI Touch taps campaign  
**Category sponsor:** Vitra

InSinkEerator's digital marketing & e-commerce manager Chris Vella-Bone, second left, and marketing communications manager for Europe and Russia Anne Kaarlela, third left, accepted their award, presented to them by category sponsor Vitra's sales manager Darren Paxford, second right, and KBBDaily editor Ellie Clow, centre. InSinkEerator's Chris Vella-Bone said: "Thank you to the ek&bbusiness team for rewarding our efforts and we look forward to the 2019 Awards & Review"



### BEST PR CAMPAIGN

**Winner:** The Connection for Franke's Refill Not Landfill UK

"Thrilled to win the PR award for a second time," said Patricia Hancock, The Connection MD, centre, who took to the stage with PR account manager Helen Mellor, second right, to accept the award for their work with Franke and its Refill Not Landfill UK campaign, aimed to promote greater awareness surrounding plastic bottles usage



### BEST BESPOKE KITCHEN MAKER

**Winner:** Martin Moore  
**Category sponsor:** Häfele UK

Collecting Martin Moore's trophy was design director Richard Moore, second left; marketing manager Janet Wallace, third left; and contracts director Steve Boyle, second right. The category was judged by EKBB editor Rachel Hicks, fourth right, and the trophy was presented by category sponsor Häfele UK's regional sales manager Paul Cook. Wallace said the win "reflects the vision, skill and hard work of the entire team, and our commitment to providing our clients with a unique designs and exceptional service"



### BEST DISTRIBUTOR

**Winner:** PWS  
**Category sponsor:** 2020

On stage to collect the trophy for Best Distributor was PWS's southern regional manager Daniel Winchester, left, and PR & social media manager Jess Inglis, third right. To help present the award was category sponsor 2020's national sales manager Robert Garfoot, second right



## BEST KITCHEN RETAILER

**Winner:** Classic Interiors **Category sponsor:** Beko

Classic Interiors directors Gareth Davies, third left and Maxwell Davies, third right, took to the stage to collect their trophy for Best Kitchen Retailer. Joining them on stage was category sponsor Beko's marketing manager Gino Grossi, second right



## STAR APPLIANCE

**Winner:** Novy – Cloud 110cm ceiling hood

Owain Harrison, country manager, Novy UK, centre, went on stage with Novy chief commercial officer Francis Gistelnic, second right, to collect the trophy for Star Appliance. Harrison said: "Our award win has since been very generously acknowledged by partners and retailers, and it has already opened new doors for Novy"

## STAR BATHROOM PRODUCT

**Winner:** Crosswater – Union Brassware Collection

David Button, retail sales director UK & Ireland, took to the stage to accept the award for Crosswater's Star Bathroom Product win. Button said of the brand's win: "A fantastic accolade for Team Crosswater as its awesome new range called Union secures Best New Product of 2018 – what a day!"



## OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE KBB INDUSTRY

**Winner:** Yvonne Orgill, CEO, Bathroom Manufacturers Association

The final award of the day went to the Bathroom Manufacturers Association's CEO Yvonne Orgill, recognising her contributions to the KBB industry. She said: "This award was a total surprise to me. I am honoured and humbled and am thankful that the industry has given me 33 wonderful years"

## BEST KITCHEN INNOVATION

**Winner:** Blum – Blumotion S

"It was a lovely surprise to win the award for Best Kitchen Innovation. Blumotion S is a fantastic development for the industry and it was great to see it get the recognition it deserves," said Blum's marketing manager Lisa Robinson, second left. Accepting the award alongside her was Andrea Hillier, national retail services manager, centre



## BEST BATHROOM INNOVATION

**Winner:** RAK Ceramics – RAK-Feeling shower tray

Ben Bryden, head of sales (UK) and head of projects & specifications (Europe), second left, with Alvin Biggs, managing director and regional vice president Europe, second right accepted RAK Ceramics' trophy for the Best Bathroom Innovation



## BEST BATHROOM RETAILER

**Winner:** Stone & Chrome  
**Category sponsor:** Frontline Bathrooms

Stone & Chrome showroom manager Shane Fraser, third left, and MD Jim Gibson, third right, took home the award for Best Bathroom Retailer. On stage beside them is category sponsor Frontline Bathrooms' sales and marketing director Michael Sammon, second right



## STAR KITCHEN PRODUCT

**Winner:** The 1810 Company – Axix Seamless Technology  
**Category sponsor:** Cosentino

2018's Star Kitchen Product went to The 1810 Company's Axix Seamless Technology. MD Gareth Williams, centre, went on stage to collect the trophy from category sponsor Cosentino's Newmarket Centre general manager, second right. Williams said he "was delighted to receive the award as it recognises the efforts the team at 1810 put into bringing this unique product to market"