

# Essential kitchen & bathroom business

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www.kbbdaily.co.uk

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Paul Gidley unveils the company's newest UK distribution centre

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Why the breakfast bar has become a consumer's must-have

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## SHORTLIST REVEALED

The successful finalists of the ek&bbusiness Awards & Review 2019 have been announced, with the winners set to be unveiled at a stunning and entertainment-packed ceremony in November.

Around 500 of the KBB industry's top professionals will be in attendance on the day, with a raft of festive entertainment in store alongside a delicious three-course meal and complimentary drinks. "We're thrilled to unveil this year's ek&bbusiness Awards shortlist," said ek&bbusiness publisher Darren Summerfield.

The awards' expert panel of judges – including British Institute of Kitchen Bedroom & Bathroom Installation (BiKBBi) CEO Damian Walters and BMA CEO Yvonne Orgill – will now help to choose the 14 winners in a thorough judging process.

"The number of entries across all the categories is even higher than last year – it's going to be a tough job for our esteemed panel of experts. Thank you to everyone who took the time to enter – let the judging commence!" added Summerfield.



The 14 categories range from Star Appliance and Best Bathroom Innovation to Best PR Campaign and Distributor, plus the coveted Best Installer award. These accolades cover all parts of the KBB industry and aim to celebrate the achievements of companies and individuals across retail, manufacturing, installation, distribution, and PR.

Taking place on the 28th November at The Brewery in London, the ek&bbusiness Awards & Review 2019 will be a fantastic day of delicious food, complimentary drinks and a celebration of the industry, looking back over another year. The event will be presented by a special-to-be-announced host and accompanied by first-class entertainment including the hilarious German stand-up comedian Henning Wehn – sponsored by Virtual World.

» See page 11 for the full shortlist

## UK fitted kitchen market exceeds £4.2bn

The UK fitted kitchen market "maintained a pattern of growth" in 2018, according to the 2019 edition of JKMR's Overview Report, allowing market size to exceed £4.2bn due to a 3% rise in product income at client buying price.

However, JKMR noted that value growth was "driven by product choice continuing its shift to more sophisticated options" in the independent and new-build sectors, alongside price rises driven by external factors – "not any meaningful growth in kitchen installations".

The report highlighted "considerable differences" in performance for major retailers, with Howdens performing well while other large retailers saw KBB sales decline. JKMR has forecast that the "traditional DIY multiples" in the overall fitted kitchen market will "continue to lose share to Wren".

In terms of independent retailers, the sector remains the single largest in terms of market value, but activity in terms of installation numbers declined in 2018, and is expected to fall further in 2019, JKMR noted.

The research firm added that while market value is expected to rise despite fewer installations, the pressure on margins is "likely to become intense". The report also provides an in-depth analysis of the outlook for the fitted kitchen market in 2020 in the face of current political and economic uncertainty.

» For further details on the 2019 edition of the Overview Report, contact JKMR. Tel: 07742 180 855 or email: jkbarber1965@live.co.uk



# RAISING THE BAR

The breakfast bar has risen to the top of the consumer wish list, so when it comes to open-plan kitchens, no island is complete without one

Words Emma Hedges

## ALNO STAR DUR

Alno by Halcyon

Tel: 0208 420 1124. [www.alno.co.uk](http://www.alno.co.uk)

The island work surface in this Alno by Halcyon design is extended on two sides to create a sociable corner breakfast bar area, with both seating areas facing in on each other. The Caesarstone worktop in Fresh Concrete contrasts with the Alno Star Dur textured laminate in Lava Grey, with the remaining Alno Star Pearl units shown in Light Grey

