Water World Kohler unveils a flush showroom in the Windy City

WITHIN THE RAREFIED UNIVERSE of interiors, there are those who thrive on the thrill of the chase. Sadly, the time required to find true treasures for your home is an indulgence few can afford. Enter the Kohler Store, a 7,000-square-foot one-stop convenience shop of kitchen and bath fixtures, fittings and accessories located at Chicago Merchandise Mart's lavish LuxeHome.

Designed by Manhattan architects Janson Goldstein, this unique outpost sets a discreet modernist stage for 300 products from Kohler, Kallista and Robern. Among the compelling displays, "live" areas allow visitors to test the waters of such innovations as the sok overflowing chromatherapy bath with effervescent bubbles and WaterTile bodyspray. A toilet performance room, clad in a silvery oak veneer and aluminum, provides personal demonstrations of the latest flushing technologies. For inspiration, the company called upon such notable

designers as Laura Bohn, Ray Booth, Clodagh, Christopher Coleman, Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz and Brian Covington to help create the store's Designer Series, a selection of room designs incorporating its most deluxe suites-complete with water color renderings, spec sheets, material samples and sources.

"The store is for the homeowner," says manager Michelle Kowalski. Therefore, she notes that service is a staff priority. "We have various levels of project consultants who will create designs, do in-house consultations and dimensional drawings for minor remodels or major renovations." As for tile and stone, her team will partner with the neighboring Ann Sacks showroom. Who could ask for anything more?

LINDA C. LENTZ

The Kohler Store, 312.755.2510, www.tnekohlerstore.com

