

The  
Journal's  
pick of  
curious,  
interesting  
and useful  
products.

## Panel Discussion

by Clayton DeKorne



**Frame, sheathe, and insulate, all in one step.** Thermostructure Building Systems are interlocking, load-bearing composite 4x8 panels made of polystyrene and galvanized steel. With electrical conduits, window and door openings molded in, these custom panels weigh 45 pounds each. Shiplap joints are connected on site. The tight-fitting joints reduce air flow, and the insulation values are higher than for traditional stud systems. The manufacturer, RADVA Corporation, will provide training and assistance in construction. They can customize shapes and sizes and tailor panels to accommodate special wiring, and window and door openings. Contact RADVA Corporation, 604 17th Street, Drawer 2900, 1st Street Station, Radford, VA 24143; 703/731-3717.

### Dearth Vapor



**New fiberglass-faced, fiberglass-embedded gypsum board gives you a moisture-resistant substrate.** DenShield panels, available in sizes 4x8 or 4x5, offer a smooth, sound backing for ceramic tile, or it can be used anywhere moisture is a problem: swimming pool areas, bathroom ceilings, or walls. The panels weigh 33 percent less than cement-based boards, and can be easily cut with a razor knife or hand saw. A water-resistant fiberglass coating and fiberglass particles embedded in the core provide the moisture resistance. By nature of its composite material, it won't delaminate. Contact your local Georgia Pacific dealer or

home center, or Georgia Pacific Corporation, Department DSSS, P.O. Box 2808, Norcross, GA 30091; 404/521-4000; or 800/447-2882.

### Tiled of That Color?



**Your client is sick and tired of the color of his ceramic tile,** but he doesn't want to pay to replace it. Why not give it a coat of paint? Wm. Zinsser & Co. has developed BullsEye 1-2-3, a brush-on primer formulated to anchor to ceramic and other slick surfaces. For best results, top coats should be high-gloss alkyd. Contact Wm. Zinsser & Co., 39 Belmont Drive, Somerset, NJ 08875; 800/526-3885 (in N.J. 201/469-8100).

### Thermo Job, Well Done



**Renovating a large expanse of commercial glass** and you need an economical alternative to walling it up? Or perhaps you need to insulate prefabricated steel. ThermoCon I/C is an acoustic insulation that is suitable for application over glass, steel, concrete, wood, brick, and urethane foam. It is non-toxic, fire retardant, and spray applied. The product is made from sulfate wood pulp, and it is available in a

variety of colors. When your spray coat dries, it is seamless—which reduces air infiltration. It reduces reverberated sound by 75 percent and reduces heat transfer by 80 percent, according to the manufacturer. Contact ThermoCon International, Inc. 2508 New Marlin Highway, Waco, TX, 76703; 817/756-3713.

### It's Name Isn't Mud



**Why not patch that old wall after all,** and while you're at it, spray or trowel on a textured skim coat? U.S. Gypsum's new Quik & Easy Ready-To-Use Wall and Ceiling Texture, might do the job. Available in 3.5 gallon pails, it may be applied by spray, brush, roller, and trowel. It's versatile too, with a range of texture and design possibilities. For example, you can get a stipple height as high as 3/8 inch or—when spraying—you can get a splatter, splatter knock down, or orange peel finish. Unlike regular mud, it's treated against shrinking and cracking, and it's not engineered for sanding or bonding with tape. It's ready right out of the pail, and it dries to a hard white finish that can be painted. Cleans up with soap and water. Contact Sarah Oetken, U.S. Gypsum Company, 101 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606-4385; 312/606-4523.

### From the Shingle File



**Now you can paint those old roofs and add a few years to otherwise doomed shingles.** Roof Guardian is an elastic, shingle-roof coating that is mildew resistant and water soluble. It can be applied to composition, asphalt, asbestos shingle, and corrugated roofs. One gallon covers approximately 100 square feet, and it can stop leaks, seal cracks, and plug up small holes as it creates a seamless layer over the roof. It dries in eight hours, comes in nine colors, and you apply it with a standard medium-nap roller. Contact Oregon Research and Development Corporation, 1920 McGilchrist Street, S.E., Salem, OR 97302; 503/588-7000.

### This won't burn you up.



**A cost-effective, single-component firestop system,** Fyre Putty, is a cost-effective, single-component firestop system for use in walls, ceilings, and floors. No special tools are required for installation; in fact, it's available in caulking tubes (pails and drums too). It can be handpacked, trowelled, or mechanically pumped. Damping material, which doesn't need to be precisely fit, is needed only for large openings. Fyre Putty is an inorganic, chemically stable material that does not smoke, flame, or give off noxious fumes or odors under fire conditions, according to the manufacturer. Contact Standard Oil Engineered Materials Company, Fibers Division, P.O. Box 808, Niagara Falls, NY, 14302; 716/278-2203.

### Lasting Lattice



**Wooden lattice may be going out of style,** if Cross Industries has its way. It's introduced PVC Lattice, and it is available in a wide range of sizes and colors. The maintenance-free lattice, which looks just like wood and is more durable, is made with polyvinyl-chloride strips. The tough, durable panels are easy to install, never need painting, and you can nail them without predrilling, says Cross. The individual strips are chemically welded into a single unit. Staples, which cause rust, are not used. There is a range of standard colors, though larger orders of more than 65 standard 4x8 panels may be custom colored. Both diagonal and rectangular lattice patterns are available. Contact Cross Industries, Inc., 5262 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, GA 30341; 404/451-4531. ■