

Products



Long-Span PVC Deck Rail

The *Azek Rail* spans a full 10 feet between posts, with stiffness provided by an aluminum retainer (the channel on the underside of the railing that holds the balusters). It's available in Victorian, Colonial, and flat styles, and costs \$25 to \$36 per linear foot. Azek claims that the installed cost of 30 linear feet of rail will be about 14% less than if 6-foot rail sections were used, because you don't need as many posts. You can also get direct-connect metal balusters, which fasten directly to the retainer and the bottom rail without plastic connectors, for \$5 to \$5.50 each.

Azek, 877/275-2935, azek.com.



It's Raining Music

The *Moxie Showerhead* produces a combination of water and sound. It consists of 60 angled spray nozzles surrounding a removable, battery-powered speaker. The speaker syncs with any Bluetooth-enabled device — a smart phone or mp3 player, for example — and streams music directly into the shower. It's held in place by a magnet and can be removed without tools. No wiring is involved; an internal lithium battery supplies an average seven hours of play time and is recharged via a USB cord. It costs \$150.

Kohler, 800/456-4537, kohler.com.



Stock Closet System

ClosetMaid's *ShelfTrack Elite* system is easier on the budget than a custom organizer yet still offers the custom wood look. It's built around stock-sized components — 2-foot- and 3-foot-long shelves and 2-foot-long drawer boxes and cube organizers. Shelves have cores of honeycomb fiberboard (rather than particleboard) for lighter weight. All elements have a chocolate wood-grain finish and nickel hardware. Pricing is lower than the company's Master Suite system but higher than wire shelving; the components for the closet shown here, for instance, cost approximately \$1,200.

ClosetMaid, 800/874-0008, closetmaid.com.



Repairable Moment Frame

A special moment frame (SMF) lets you create wide wall openings in seismic areas, but if there's a seismic event the frame usually has to be replaced. Simpson's new *Strong Frame SMF* solves this with patented bolt-on "Yield-Link" beam-to-column links. In an earthquake, these links are designed to bear the brunt of inelastic deformation, so the beam and columns stay intact; only the Yield-Link will need replacing, according to Simpson. Strong Frames come in 192 pre-engineered sizes up to 24 feet wide and 20 feet tall. A frame sized for an 8-foot-tall two-car garage opening costs between \$6,500 and \$8,000 and provides 5,500 to 16,500 pounds of shear capacity.

Simpson Strong-Tie, 800/999-5099, strongtie.com/smf.

For more information about these products, go to <http://jlc.hotims.com>.

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Tight Sill

Door usage and house settling will eventually wear down the sill seal on an entry door, but the *Z-Series Articulating Cap Sill (ZAC)* self-adjusts to stay tight. It's made from a composite material that's naturally springy, so it adjusts over time to maintain a firm seal. The product is paired with a matching sweep that fits on the door bottom. You can call one of Endura's dealers to have it added to a new door, or you can retrofit it to a door that already has a nonarticulating Z-Series sill. Costs range from \$6 to \$12 for a standard 3-foot door.

Endura, 800/334-2006, enduraproducts.com.



Smart Dimmer

Leviton's *Decora SureSlide Dimmer* provides slide-action full-range dimming for incandescent and dimmable LED and CFL lamps. It includes a slide dimmer and an on-off switch in rocker or push-button styles and has a rating of 150W LED/CFL and 600W incandescent. The dimmer can be used as a single-pole or three-way switch, fits into a standard wall box, and is suitable for multi-gang installations. A small selector switch, which is hidden behind the cover plate, lets you choose CFL/LED or incandescent. Several colors are available. It costs \$26.

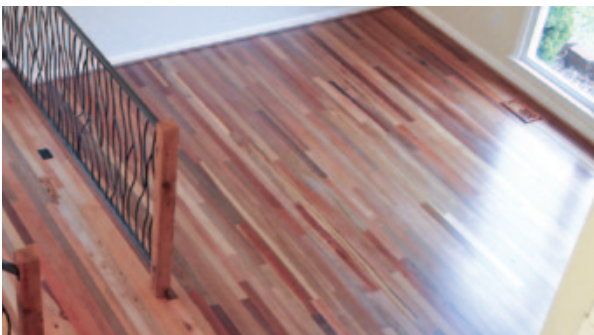
Leviton, 800/323-8920, leviton.com/universal.



Compact Power

The new *GE Home Generator System's* 28-inch-by-24-inch footprint is compact for its class. It's aimed at homeowners with small and medium-sized homes who want enough power to run essential circuits when the grid goes down. An internal power-management system is supposed to take care of the home's power needs automatically during a power outage by electronically controlling electrical loads. The system is powered by a Briggs & Stratton engine and has a galvanneal steel enclosure. An 8-kw unit retails for \$2,200, a 10-kw unit for \$3,000.

GE Generator Systems, 888/575-8226, homestandbygeneratorsystems.com.



Exotic Reclaimed Flooring

Viridian's *Jakarta Blend* is 100% Asian hardwoods reclaimed from international shipping crates in Portland, Ore. The crates are disassembled and the boards are sorted, dewatered, kiln-dried, and milled into 2½-inch-wide by 6-foot-long tongue-and-groove flooring. The company also makes engineered flooring with a 4-mm-thick wear layer of reclaimed hardwood and a birch plywood core. Costs range from \$6 to \$7.50 per square foot for the solid wood flooring and \$8 to \$10.50 for the engineered.

Viridian Wood Products, 877/909-9663, viridianwood.com.

For more information about these products, go to <http://jlc.hotims.com>.

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Warmer, Drier Basements

Superior Walls' *XiPlus* foundation panels have an insulation value of R-21 (compared with R-12.5 for the maker's standard Xi panels), thanks to 4 inches of extruded polystyrene insulation and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches of Dow Thermax. All Superior Walls have a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-thick polypropylene-reinforced concrete shell, along with 8-inch-thick steel-reinforced concrete studs and footer and header beams. Everything is monolithically poured with 5,000-psi concrete. The studs have galvanized metal facings for fastening drywall. All panels are custom-fabricated, with costs ranging from \$60 to \$80 per linear foot. Current availability is in the Eastern U.S.

Superior Walls, 800/452-9255,
superiorwalls.com.

For more information about this product, go to <http://jlc.hotims.com>.

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Fluorescent Replacement

Larson Electronics' 4-foot LED *T-Series* style bulb replaces the company's T8 and T12 fluorescents. It delivers 2,750 lumens (vs. 2,600 for a typical T8) and comes in 5,600K and 4,300K color temperatures (which are on the cool side of the spectrum). It's available for about \$70.

Larson Electronics, 800/369-6671, larsonelectronics.com.



Pretty Face

A fascia board can really dress up a wall-mounted door track. Now Johnson Hardware is offering a pre-assembled *Wall Mounted Fascia* to go with its 200 WM Series Sliding Door Track. The 200 WM is an extruded I-beam track that supports doors as heavy as 400 pounds and comes in lengths of up to 16 feet. Cost depends on length, with a 48-inch track and fascia priced at \$175 and \$75, respectively. Fascia can be ordered with a Bronze Anodized or Clear Satin finish.

Johnson Hardware, 800/837-5664, johnsonhardware.com.

For more information about these products, go to <http://jlc.hotims.com>.