

BY CHARLES WARDELL



Old-Look Laminate

An embossed surface and a wear layer that combines multiple species and colors in random widths give Architectural Remnants flooring the look of reclaimed hardwood in a laminate product. The 12mm-thick flooring is available in eight colors and species and in varying sizes. Cost: \$3 to \$3.50 per square foot. Armstrong Floors, 800.233.3823, armstrong.com



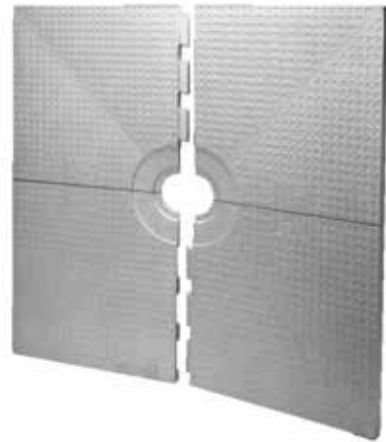
Stealth Grab Bars

The Invisia Bath Accessories collection disguises grab bars as decorative flourishes to standard bath items. Made from stainless steel and available in a satin or polished chrome finish, the collection also includes aluminum-framed shower seats with walnut panels. Price ranges from \$325 to \$370. American Standard, 800.442.1902, americanstandard.com



Stone Pretender

The Foundry Stacked Stone Collection of premium vinyl siding offers the look of stone without the cost. Panels are cast in molds made from quarried stone and colored to provide tonal differences. Four colors are available. The material can be cut with snips and hung like traditional vinyl panels. Cost: about \$3 per square foot. Tapco Group, 800.771.4486, foundrysidings.com



Mortarless Shower Base

Part of the Kerdi Shower system, which includes polystyrene shower curbs and waterproofing membrane, the Kerdi Shower Tray is a polystyrene tray used in place of a mortar base. Pricing varies by size and whether the drain is centered or offset. A 48-by-48-inch tray with a center drain costs \$90; the 72-inch-square tray shown is \$200. Schluter, 800.472.4588, schluter.com



Always in Balance

A heat recovery ventilator works best when an equal volume of air is moving through the supply and exhaust. That balance can be thrown off by various factors, from unequal-length duct runs to a strong wind blowing against the wall. The Self-Balancing HRV Deluxe Series solves the problem with internal circuits that measure airflow and adjust the speeds of the unit's two motors. Cost: \$1,155. Reversomatic, 800.810.3473, reversomatic.com



Limited-Edition Doors

For clients who want something unique, Simpson's Artist Collection offers custom-designed doors from various artists—such as this door from architect James L. Cutler—featuring one artist at a time for a limited period. Doors can be made in any of more than 100 wood species. Pricing ranges from \$1,000 to \$1,500, depending on wood species, glass choice, and local market factors. Simpson, 800.746.7766, simpsondoor.com



Sidewall Boot

The Greenskin Envelope Seal makes flashing pipe penetrations easy: Just slip the 17-mil-thick polyethylene material over the pipe, slide building wrap under the bottom of the flange, then lap another layer of wrap over the top edge. Spacer buttons on the back of the flange allow for airflow. Available for 1/2-inch to 4-inch pipe diameters; suggested list price: \$3.50 to \$3.70. Mainline Backflow Products, 877.734.8691, backwatervalve.com



The Sump Is Calling

Unlike most other sump pumps, the Sump Minder sends a voice alert to cell numbers chosen by the homeowner if the battery needs replacing or there's some other problem. Able to pump 2,300 gallons per hour with a 10-foot lift, the pump's electronic controller monitors the 12-volt deep-cycle battery and cycles the pump every two weeks. MSRP: \$490, not including battery. Wayne Water Systems, 888.299.2963, waynewatersystems.com



Gas Double Slide-In

Double-oven electric ranges have been around for a while, but GE claims its Slide-In Double Oven Gas Range is the first one available in gas. Controls are on the front; unfinished sides and side tabs that fit over the top of the counter create a built-in look and eliminate the gap between range and counter. The range top includes a built-in griddle and a 20,000 Btu burner. MSRP is \$3,300. GE Appliances, 800.626.2005, geappliances.com



Single-Coat Stucco

LP's CarraraFinishes Built on SmartSide are a cost-effective alternative to traditional three-coat stucco or EIF systems. The stucco finish is laid—with a trowel or a knife—directly onto the SmartSide panel, and can be used to create various textures. Priced from \$2.50 to \$3.75 per square foot. LP, 888.820.0325, lpcorp.com/smartside



Integrated Drain

Thin-Bed Drains are ideal for barrier-free applications because of their low profile. Noble says its Thin-Bed Drain goes one better, with a clamping collar that ensures a watertight connection between the drain and a sheet membrane. The drain is available with square or round strainers and comes in three finishes. The clamping collar and drain flange are stainless steel. Cost: around \$95. Noble Co., 800.878.5788, noblecompany.com



Historic Faux Stone

The concrete "stones" in the Column Collection of stacking concrete columns are molded from a Civil War-era stone fence to provide a historical look. Stones are 6 inches thick, 14 inches square, and hollow in the middle so they can slip over a wood post. No mortar or special skills are required: Stones are simply stacked one atop the other. Cost is around \$900 per column (13 blocks and a cap). Kroy by Ply Gem, 888.300.8208, kroybp.com