

BY CHARLES WARDELL



Rock Touch

According to the manufacturer, you can safely lay a hot pan on Pyrolave's Enameled Lava Stone Countertop. Quarried from the crater of an inactive volcano in France, the stone is glazed with hard enamel in 32 colors and comes in 30, 40, 60, and 80mm thicknesses and lengths up to 9 feet. Retail price: \$330 per square foot. Pyrolave, 919.788.8953, pyrolave.com



Modular Towel Rack

Vola's new Modular Electric Towel Warmer hides the technical elements behind the wall for a clean look. Each installation can have between three and 20 bars placed 4 to 12 inches apart. A timer automatically shuts the heat off after two hours at full power. Pricing starts at \$3,970 for a chrome three-bar unit. Hastings Tile & Bath, 212.674.9700, hastingstilebath.com



Hidden Power

The Pop-Out Outlet conceals three electrical sockets behind a flat wall plate. The spring-loaded outlet emerges with a simple push. Wiring is the same as for a standard 15-amp outlet. Prices vary by finish: a single-gang model ranges from \$40 (white) to \$48 (magnesium). Wall plates are separate and start at a cost of \$5 for white. Legrand, 877.295.3472, legrand.us



Best LED Yet

Compared with an incandescent, the Infina LED Bulb is the same size and shape, but heavier and more solid, with a tad warmer light. It screws into standard fixtures, turns on instantly, and is dimmable. It comes in 40- and 60-watt equivalents and costs from \$10 to \$20. The company claims a 25,000-hour service life. Switch Lighting, 888.978.4110, switchinfinia.com

Products



Easy Access

Available on soaking tubs, air bath, whirlpool, and combo massage models, American Standard's Walk-in Bath has a watertight outward-opening door. This leaves more room inside the tub when the door is open, offering easier access to the tub seat, especially for wheelchair users. A Quick Drain pump drains the tub in about two minutes. Prices range from \$7,900 to \$11,000. American Standard, 800.442.1902, americanstandard.com



Against the Wind

Although Atlas' new high-performance or HP Technology Shingles are no thicker than other architectural shingles, they are warranted to withstand 130-mph winds with four nails per shingle and a 6-inch exposure. A double sealant line offers better adhesion and a 14-inch width creates a 1 1/4-inch nailing area. Cost: \$22 to \$30 per bundle (three bundles cover a square). Atlas Roofing, 800.388.6134, atlasroofing.com



Integrated Shade

Invisible when retracted and fully integrated into the frame, Marvin's Automated Exterior Shading System has a low-voltage motor—controlled by app or switch—that can be programmed to adjust shade height throughout the day. Jamb depth with the shade is 6 3/4 inches, so it needs a 2x6 wall. A typical casement with this system retails for \$3,000 to \$4,000. Marvin Windows and Doors, 888.537.7828, marvin.com



Preventing Tank Leaks

Contemporary toilets have smaller tanks than older models, so placing a new toilet on an existing flange can leave a gap between tank and wall. Leaning on the tank will strain the bolts that connect the tank and the bowl, deforming the gaskets and causing leaks. Secure-A-Tank plastic brackets hook over the lip of the tank to add the missing support. Cost: \$20 for a three-unit pack. Vadco Innovations, 800.699.8232, secureatank.com



Mix-and-Match Trim

Design-A-Column is a line of half-round column elements for cabinets and other surfaces. It includes columns, caps and bases, center spindles, and end blocks in maple and cherry, each pre-sanded and ready to paint or stain. Column pieces come in 4- and 8-foot lengths and in 1½- and 2½-inch widths, with prices from \$9 to \$48. Caps, bases, and center spindles cost between \$4 and \$16. Outwater, 201.498.8750, outwatercatalogs.com



Standing Tall

Available in custom widths and in heights up to 8 feet, Signet foam-filled, hand-stained Fiberglass Entry Doors have 2 5/8-inch finger-jointed 3-ply hardwood hinge stiles and 4 1/4-inch 4-ply hardwood strike stiles. Options include style, color, and finish (cherry, mahogany, fir, and oak). Shipping time is about two weeks. List price for a prehung, prefinished door is around \$3,200. Provia, 800.669.4711, proviaproducts.com



Scratch-Resistant Counters

The same characteristics that make end-grain cutting boards popular also make the material good for countertops. Oregon Black Walnut End Grain Countertops, made by fusing the end pieces of wood strips, are made to order in sizes as large as 3 feet by 8 feet, with curving and shaping also available. About \$148 per square foot. The company ships nationwide. Windfall Lumber, 360.352.2250, windfalllumber.com



Sea Hue

Fans of coastal architecture should warm to the cool undertones of Trex's new Pebble Gray Decking and Railing, part of the company's Select Composite system. Deck planks are made from a stain- and mold-resistant shelled composite material, with a grooved or square-edge profile. Railing is installed with an external bracket system. Pricing is \$2.50 to \$2.75 per linear foot. Trex, 800.289.8739, trex.com