

BY VINCENT SALANDRO



### 1. Enhanced Outdoor Living

The Trex Pergola Collection has three new additions: Trex Privacy aluminum wall panels (shown), offered in both permanent and movable options in multiple patterns; Trex Shade aluminum panels, also offered in multiple patterns; and Trex Pergola Retreat free-standing aluminum pergolas with an open rafter design, offered in 16 standard sizes and custom orders. All are available in a variety of powder-coat colors. [trex.com](http://trex.com)

### 2. Four-in-One Decking Spacers

Builders use different jigs and methods to provide a gap between deck boards to allow debris and water to fall through and to give the boards room to expand as they absorb moisture. With four “wings” of different sizes, reusable Spax deck spacers can help ensure uniform gaps of four common dimensions— $\frac{1}{16}$  inch and  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch for pressure-treated boards and  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch for composite or PVC boards. Each wing is notched to help with fastener alignment. A hole in one wing is handy for pulling out a spacer if it becomes stuck. The spacers come three in a package. [spax.us](http://spax.us)



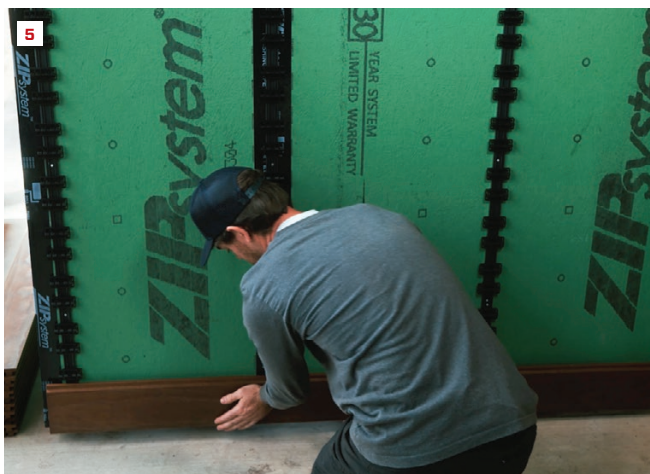
### 3. Smooth Profile Cabinet Fronts

Wood-Mode Fine Custom Cabinetry's Moditional collection features simplified profiles for smooth cabinetry fronts, beveled molding details, and hidden dust rails. The dust rail (the midrail of the face frame) is tucked behind the drawer front, simplifying the visual field. Doors in the Moditional Collection are available in four designs with either a transitional full overlay or inset style. [wood-mode.com](http://wood-mode.com)



### 4. Galvanized Steel Knee-Brace Connectors

Simpson Strong-Tie introduced a selection of knee-brace connectors to its Outdoor Accents Avant Collection decorative hardware line. Available in two sizes to accommodate both 4-by and 6-by lumber, the Outdoor Accents APVKB knee-brace connectors are fabricated from ZMax galvanized steel with a black powder coat for corrosion protection against the elements. Both sizes of the connector can be installed with a  $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch structural wood screw and STN22 hex-head washer. The connectors cost approximately \$2 each. [strongtie.com](http://strongtie.com)



### 5. Collaborative Rainscreen and Cladding

A collaboration between Kebony and Grad Concept USA, Grad for Kebony is a combination rainscreen and cladding system using aluminum Grad Mini Rails and Kebony Grad Cladding. First, the rails are fastened to the sheathing, creating what will be an air space behind the cladding. Then Kebony modified-wood boards, which are grooved on the back to articulate with clips that have been factory-mounted on the rails, snap into place. The rails come in two versions: One results in a narrow gap between cladding boards for a nickel-gap look, and the other creates a wider gap for more of a shiplap appearance. Both can be installed vertically and horizontally. [us.kebony.com](http://us.kebony.com)



### 6. Powder-Coated Aluminum Railing

Color Guard Railing Systems' Grand Prix railing line is made from textured, powder-coated aluminum, with a PVC filler in top and bottom rails and 3/4-inch round balusters. The railing is available in 36- and 42-inch heights for straight railing sections and in 36-inch heights for stair guard railing options. It's sold in kits, which include top and bottom rails, a baluster, rail supporting blocks, and four stainless steel mounting brackets; pricing ranges from \$285 to \$505. [colorguardrailing.com](http://colorguardrailing.com)



### 7. Soft-Close, Adjustable Cabinet Hinge

The Tec soft-close hinge system from Grass America features a three-tiered adjustment switch that controls the damping resistance, enabling fine-tuning of the closing action of cabinet doors. The hinges allow three-dimensional adjustment—for height, side, and depth—and are available in overlays ranging from 1/4 inch to 1 1/2 inches. The low-profile cup allows for a shallow drilling depth of 7/16 inch and contains no parts that protrude into the interior of the cabinet. [grassusa.com](http://grassusa.com)



### 8. Water-Impervious Wood Alternative

Made from upcycled rice hulls and PVC resin, Acre from Modern Mill is available in sheets, trim boards, decking, siding, and millwork. According to the manufacturer, the material has the aesthetic appeal and warmth of wood without sacrificing performance or durability; is resistant to shrinking and swelling as well as pests, decay, and climate impact; and will not rot, crack, or splinter. Acre products can be stained, painted, or printed on and can be cut and milled without specialty tools. [modern-mill.com](http://modern-mill.com)



### 9. Black-Tone Stone Siding

A black-toned Onyx option is the latest introduction to the NovikStone Dry Stack Stone and Premium Hand-Cut lines. The manufacturer says Dry Stack stone siding offers the detail of precision-laid dry-stack stone and helps achieve the look of traditional masonry, while Premium Hand-Cut siding mimics the look of hand-chiseled stone. The stone siding is impervious to moisture and resistant to warping, expansion, contraction, and cracking, according to the manufacturer. The siding is suited for foundation covers and knee-wall cladding and can be installed without mortar or adhesives. [novik.com](http://novik.com)

### 10. Smart Heated Floor Control

Laticrete has developed two thermostats to allow easier control over its Strata\_Heat floor warming system. The Wi-Fi Thermostat and Smart LCD Wi-Fi Thermostat can be controlled through an app to provide real-time information and can learn a user's routine. Both have built-in ground fault control. Laticrete's Strata\_Heat system can be installed under tile, stone, or hardwood floors. The thermostats cost about \$200. [laticrete.com](http://laticrete.com)

### 11. Multi-Application Drain Pump

The Sanivite Drain Pump can discharge graywater away from a variety of fixture types up to 16 feet vertically or 150 feet horizontally, according to the manufacturer. The drain pump, which can be used for basement kitchens and baths, fits inside a cabinet and is designed to handle sinks, dishwashers, showers, and washing machines. It comes equipped with a pair of 2-inch low inlets on either side and an additional 1½-inch inlet on top, along with a vent connection. Built-in check valves handle the drainage from any sink or tub. The unit discharges wastewater through a 1-inch, 1¼-inch, or 1½-inch rigid pipe. The unit costs approximately \$440. [saniflo.com](http://saniflo.com)

### 12. Mineral-Based Composite Decking

Sedona, a warm brown tone new to Deckorators' Voyage line of mineral-based composite decking, complements the popularity of mossy and sage green palettes. The manufacturer says Voyage decking features a fiber-like structure similar to wood that is nearly 35% lighter than traditional composites and similar in weight to PVC. Available in four different widths and 16- and 20-foot lengths, Voyage decking is also approved for use as residential cladding. [deckorators.com](http://deckorators.com)

