

Professional Remodeler®

SEPTEMBER 2008

50

MOST INNOVATIVE

NEW PRODUCTS

2008

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50 MOST INNOVATIVE NEW PRODUCTS

From the Editor/4

Interior Products/6

- 6** Faucets & Fixtures
- 7** Home Automation & Entertainment
- 10** Kitchen & Bath
- 11** Mechanical & Electrical

Exterior Products/15

- 15** Decking & Patio
- 16** Roofing & Insulation
- 17** Structural
- 18** Tools
- 19** Windows & Doors





50 MOST INNOVATIVE NEW PRODUCTS

As the products editor for *Professional Remodeler*, it is my pleasure to peruse and choose groundbreaking products that change the way we approach, bid and execute remodeling jobs. For more than two years now, I've filled these pages with the best products I've seen on job sites, in trade show booths and in the press releases that flood my desk and inbox. Normally I only get a few pages in which to feature my choices. But in rare instances such as these, I get the other staff editors on board to pick through products that have either been featured in our pages or have just recently been called to our attention.

It's pretty amazing to see where the industry has gone and how far it has yet to go. Yes, times are tough and it's not easy to attract customers, but at least our manufacturers haven't stopped their R&D efforts. Some great new products have hit the market this past year. It is my sincere wish that we have chosen the best the industry has to offer. Like our sister publication *Professional Builder's 100 Best Products*, we have the same selection criteria.

Our aim here is to emphasize innovation and new technology — not just

clever marketing — and to highlight manufacturers who have made great leaps in product research and development. The editors' choices were based on:

Technological advancement: Real technological advancement is hard to come by; we're looking for more than a new color or slight upgrade from previous models. We're talking about serious innovation that puts the product ahead of its competitors.

Significant product improvement: Again, this is much, much more than a new paint job or new wood choices. We're looking for categorical shifts in the product's structure or features.

New product line introduction: This is sometimes the hardest part to determine. We get a lot of product-related correspondence here at *Professional Remodeler*, and it's not always readily apparent when the product hit the market. Although we allowed some exceptions (a month or two at most), all of the products here have been released within a year of the publication date.

Increasing the competition of a product line: This criterion is my personal favorite. Products chosen based on this have changed the market so dramatically that the competition has been forced to innovate. **PR**



Nick Bajzek
Products Editor

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Our Mission

Professional Remodeler challenges, inspires and engages owners and top executives of established, successful remodeling firms by delivering vital, trusted information.

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Jesse H. Neal Awards: 2003 National Business Journalism Certificate • 2002 Editorial Achievement Award • 2001 Editorial Achievement Award • 2000 National Business Journalism Certificate (2) • 1999 Editorial Achievement Award • 1998 Editorial Achievement Award

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FAUCETS & FIXTURES

Karbon-ized

If you want distinct, you got it. Kohler's Karbon articulating faucet comes crafted from traditional brass and innovative carbon fiber composite tubing. The joints connecting the four sections of the faucet support the spout while allowing for smooth handling.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-252>



Let it Flow

Chosen for its unique configuration as the first wall-mounted waterfall trough faucet, Price Pfister's Kenzo is available in a single-control center set, single control vessel and eight-inch wide-spread mounts. The faucet has a 1½-gallon-per-minute flow and a roman tub with other bath configurations.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-253>



It's All Ondus

You can't beat the Space Age lines and iPod-style digital controls on Grohe's new Ondus faucet collection. The digital controls allow users to pre-set water temperature and flow. Each faucet in the line uses the company's Silk-Move cartridges for smooth, precise movements. Eleven coordinating accessories are also available.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-251>



Simply Illuminating

The Illumi-Heat by Hunter Fan Co. is a stylishly-designed, semi-flush ceiling light that features a built-in heater option to provide some quick spot heating. According to Hunter, the patented Four-Seasons heating element is able to raise the temperature of a typical 215 square-foot room by five degrees in as little as an hour. Heat and light controls are kept separately via a remote control and wall switch.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-254>



GEe-Whiz

You can't beat a washer/dryer combo that looks like it's from 10 years in the future. GE's new Profile with SmartDispense Frontload laundry pair features an intuitive system that automatically dispenses detergent and fabric softener based on each load's size, soil level, water hardness, fabrics used and cycle type.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-255>



HOME AUTOMATION & ENTERTAINMENT

Piece of Mind, Anytime

Remodelers who really want to impress their customers should look to Lagotek's Home Intelligence Platform. The latest version, 3.4, incorporates window controls. Also available is the PhoneView cell phone application, which works with most BlackBerries and Windows Mobile Smartphones. The system sends alerts and lets users execute modes, view live images and check the home's lighting and temperatures.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-256>



Did You Hear Me?

On-Q/Legrand's new Selective Call Intercom System includes a high-resolution color LCD interface with customizable room names and has the ability to support three separate conversations simultaneously. The "page-all" function communicates with the entire house and a "hands-free reply" setting allows users to respond without pressing a button.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-257>

You'll Flip

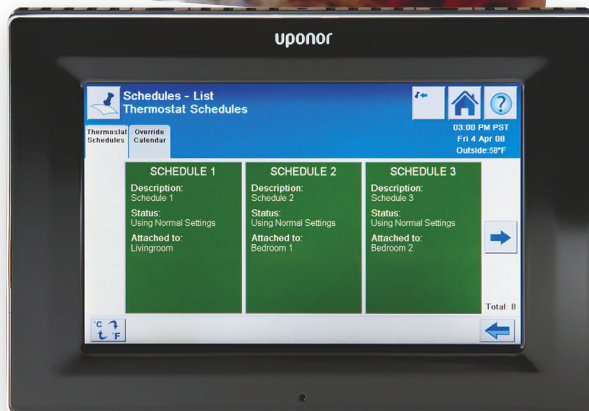
This is something a bit different. For those installers up to the challenge, check out Auton's Plasma Ceiling Flip Down units. These conceal flat-panel TVs in the ceiling — perfect for homes where space is a premium. The flip-downs only need 11½ inches of overhead space and can accommodate up to 200 pounds.

For **FREE** info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-258>

The Heartbeat of Your Homes

You can take the weight off a concerned homeowner's mind with Eaton's Home Heartbeat System. The system monitors home circuits, entryways, windows and doors and alerts users via cell phone text message or e-mail if anything has been left on or open. The wireless system is easy to install and expand if necessary.

For **FREE** info go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-260>



Snug as a Bug

Installers looking for an innovative way to keep TV and home theater installations snug against the wall should pick up Pass & Seymour's recessed TV boxes. The recessed design saves space and simplifies external connections. All-inclusive kits with Cat-5e, F-connectors, old work and TVSS receptacles are available. Snap-on end caps hide the mounting screws.

For **FREE** info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-259>

Sayonara to Structured

Uponor's new Climate Control Zoning System uses the latest in wireless technology for complete radiant heat control in every room of the house. The zoning system ships in a starter kit that includes a radio-controlled module as a base unit; the interface module; an external and removable antenna; connection cables; necessary mounting accessories; and instructions and a user manual.

For **FREE** info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-261>

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For Free info go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-3>

KITCHEN & BATH

Stains Begone

Your customers with expensive imported granite countertops can rest easier with Cosentino's latest SenSa with SenGuard stain protection. The sealer protects granite from staining while allowing the stone to breathe and preserve its natural color. The sealant is designed to maintain its properties and performance for up to 15 years.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-263>



Green to the Core

Crystal Cabinetry has a slew of new storage options. One of these is the Green Core plywood storage solution. The wood is made with a patented soy-based resin with no nasty added urea formaldehyde. The line is available in the company's Crystal Quest or Inset box construction options.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-264>

Iridescent Echoes

Created by color forecaster Barbara Schirmeister, Crossville's new Echo glass tiles are made from 30 to 50 percent recycled materials. The tiles have a great luminescent quality and are available in 15 colors with clear, frosted and iridescent finishes. The tiles are made in five sizes and can be used for walls, countertops and floors.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-262>

Espirit de Bathroom

Want to offer a great high-efficiency toilet with the name to back it up? Jacuzzi's Espree Toilet outperforms standard 1.6-gallons-per-flush toilets by a reported 20 percent. The Espree has a concealed trapway for a more streamlined look. The 17-inch chair height is great for customers concerned with universal design.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-265>



Inducted to the Kitchen

Made in 30- and 36-inch versions, the new Induction Hybrid Cooktops by Electrolux feature 10-inch main induction elements that can boil water in a reported 90 seconds. The elements automatically detect the presence of magnetic cookware and activate the induction field to match the exact size of the pan.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-266>



Do You Feel a Draft?

Made for islands at least 36 inches deep, KitchenAid's Architect Series II Retractable Down-Draft Vents have a reversible motor box that tucks away the vent and frees up space. Made in 30- and 36-inch widths, the vents have a 14-inch downdraft with exhaust capabilities ranging between 600 and 900 cubic feet per minute.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-267>

MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL

Clear the Air Up There

Billed as "the most efficient whole-house air cleaner on the market today," Luxaire's Acclimate Hybrid Electronic Air Cleaner traps airborne particles as small as .35 microns in size. The system creates an electrical field that ionizes particles, creating a stronger attraction to the company's patented air-cleaner media.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-268>





interiorproducts

We Have Backup!

Generac's Guardian air-cooled standby residential power generators sport the company's proprietary and hardy overhead valve industrial (OHVI) engines, which feature improvements like enclosures made of galvanized steel or aluminum; an LCD digital control panel with an exterior signal light for simple maintenance messages; and an optional wireless remote monitor for performance readouts inside the house.

For **FREE** info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-269>

A Good Thing in a Small Package

Measuring barely over a foot wide and weighing 40 pounds, Takagi's new T-K3-SP has all the trademarks of the company's other tankless water heaters stuffed into a smaller footprint. Once the unit starts going, it can pump up to seven gallons of hot water per minute. It also has a thermal efficiency rating of 80 percent for natural gas or propane.

For **FREE** info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-271>



A Steamy Affair

Anyone who suffers from asthma will tell you effective humidification and dehumidification systems are essential. Honeywell's new Tru-steam models provide efficient humidification separate from the air temperature. The line has three models, each with different control options. The units only require a 1¼-inch cut into ductwork and mount on a separate lightweight bracket. For **FREE** info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-270>

Open Ports

Made for both cPVC and PEX water pipes, Flow-Guard's new MultiPort manifold system is available in 1-, 1¼-, 1½- and 2-inch sizes and can be installed vertically or horizontally. The fittings allow for any number of ports during installation and can easily accommodate more in the future when used as a central manifold system. For **FREE** info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-272>

It's Electric

Kohler Power Systems has released the first combination load center and transfer switch package available for residential standby power. Model RSB is a two-in-one load center (38-40 circuits) that uses electrically operated circuit breakers to disconnect selected loads prior to the transfer to generator power. It then retransfers the load when the utility power is restored.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-273>



Tool Cool for a Tank

Rinnai's new commercial-grade LS Dual-Use Tankless Water Heater sports a high efficiency rating and a quick heating element for on-demand hot water. The unit's EZConnect system allows two units to work in tandem, and an integrated condensate collector is included for interior models. The heaters are backed by a 12-year heat exchanger limited warranty.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-274>



If You Ever Need to Vent ...

The advanced Eternal Hybrid water heater from Grand Hall now had a direct vent feature. Like previous models, the direct vent hybrid water heater works on the principle of counter flow, with cold water entering from the bottom of the tank and a top mounted turbo burner that forcing heat downward.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-275>



A Different Kind of Arc

Like it or leave it, the latest NEC codes are in effect. These fire-guard combination type Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs) by Cutler-Hammer and Eaton use electronic circuitry to detect and stop erratic currents typical in arcing faults. These AFCIs also protect against parallel and low-energy arcs.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-276>



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DECKING & PATIO

Your First Defense

Chosen for its durability in dry, fire-prone weather, Trex's Accents Fire Defense decking was developed for outdoor living spaces and decks in the Southwest and California. The planks are self-extinguishing, even under extreme heat and flames. Like the original Trex Accents, the Fire Defense planks are reversible with either a wood grain or a smooth finish.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-277>

The Cascade Effect

McFarland Cascade's special composite formula of rice hulls and recycled plastic makes Terratec Naturals deck boards very dense and durable. The product line has an embossed wood grain texture and will feature two profiles: Traditional deck boards, which install with screws through the surface, and Architectural boards, which use Terratec's own hidden Quick Clip fasteners.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-279>



Down the Drain

The Subterra Stone is the latest addition to the Belgard Environmental series' line of permeable concrete products from Oldcastle Architectural and has new technology enabling it to allow rainwater to drain. Whereas traditional paver products merely allow water to runoff, Subterra uses a 9½ percent void ratio, allowing rainwater to naturally drain through the paver into native soils.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-278>

High and Dry

You've seen deck drainage systems, but not one that has surface boards supported by the same structural design used to create a waterproof deck joist support system. The DryJoist by DryJoist (both the company and product go by the DryJoist name), has an underside that creates a flat surface that can be painted. And because it's made with marine-grade aluminum, the drainage system won't deteriorate.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-280>



exteriorproducts

ROOFING & INSULATION

The Underlying Factor

Want better performance than traditional roofing felts? Use DuPont's RoofLiner with Elvaloy to create a moisture barrier on all types of roofs, including concrete, slates, wood shakes and standing seam metal sheets. One roll of RoofLiner with Elvaloy replaces five rolls of 30-pound roofing felt and is five times lighter.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-282>

Definitely Not a SISSy

The Structural Insulated Sheathing (SIS) Plus is a new addition to Dow's Styrofoam line. The sheathing panels combine structural, insulation and weather barrier properties in one product. The structural sheathing material is attached to a polyisocyanurate foam insulation that is covered by resilient exterior skin that reduces heat and energy loss.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-283>



Grab the Sun

Known for its pool cover expertise, Faeco is branching out. The SunGrabber Solar Domestic Hot Water (SDHW) heating system is a light-weight, all-polymer solar hot water system that is designed to efficiently collect solar energy and use the energy to heat water for household use. It can also be used with existing water heaters.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-281>

Stick It and Forget It

You need a reliable adhesive as soon as the mercury drops. Typar found one and applied it to its latest Peel & Stick flashing. The newly incorporated Quik-Peel technology allows users to peel half the width of the release paper while leaving the other half in place for easy weather barrier installations.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-284>

exteriorproducts



MAXXimum Roofing

The Cosella Dorken's Delta MAXX Titan brings new technology to roofs. The roof underlayment is weather-proof and vapor-permeable and can be used on most roof slopes. The silver titanium surface bounces back and reflects up to half of the sun's radiant heat. A woven polyester bottom layer soaks up any moisture penetration.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-285>



STRUCTURAL

Need a Head Start?

Made from fast-growing northern hardwoods and certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, LP's Solid-Start LSL is a new wood product line made from compressed thin wood strands protected with both end- and edge-seals. Remodelers can use this in a bunch of applications, because the line has a dimensional strength of 1.75E and outperforms many other wood products.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-286>



Just Add Water

Sakrete's 5000 Plus concrete mix is made for high-performance repairs and only requires water in the mix. It achieves more than 5000 psi. It is ideal for high-strength applications in slabs, walkways and repairs and can also be used for concrete countertops.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-287>

A Shear Thrill

For the really big jobs, look to iLevel by Weyerhaeuser's Shear Brace to help your structures withstand Mother Nature. After all, more municipalities are enforcing International Residential Code (IRC) requirements for wall bracing. The boards are available in lengths up to 20 feet for tall wall framing.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-288>



exteriorproducts

No More Mold

The latest product to join CertainTeed's ProRoc line is the moisture and mold resistant gypsum board with M2Tech technology. The lightweight boards are easy to cut and install over steel or wood framing, and they may be finished and painted using conventional gypsum board techniques.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-289>

Stucco Redux

LaHabra's NTS, or New Technology Stucco creates less dust and healthier working conditions. The formula needs less water and shrinks less than other stucco products after it's mixed. NTS is extremely pliable and is easy to clean up.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-290>



Breaking the Sound Barrier

National Gypsum can help remodelers deliver a solution to the noisy neighbor problem with its SoundBreak Gypsum Board. According to the company, SoundBreak, which installs and finishes just like traditional gypsum board, can achieve Sound Transmission Class (STC) ratings of 55 or above in most walls. It stamps out sound with its increased mass and a "constrained-layer damping" effect provided by a middle layer of viscoelastic polymer.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-291>

TOOLS



Crikey!

Want the balance of an angle grinder with the cutting power of a circular saw? You have it in Clarke's Crocodile Saw. Made for wood, tile, marble and non-ferrous metals, the saw is compact and outfitted with five interchangeable 3¼-inch diameter blades. The 120-volt motor can crank out 4,000 RPMs and can make cuts up to 1½-inches deep.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-292>

Writing on the Wall

Biary Innovation's Magic-Stud-Finder provides, according to the company, 100 percent accuracy for finding both wood and metal studs — no batteries nor electronic parts necessary. The product won't get faulty readings from pipes, cables and insulation, and it won't leave any markings on the wall.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-293>

2-in-1

Would your roofers and flooring specialists like to have two utility knives in one? C. H. Hanson's Flip Knife does the trick. Both ends of the tool can hold any standard-size blades, with a straight blade and a hook blade included. Blade changes are faster with the company's One Touch system.

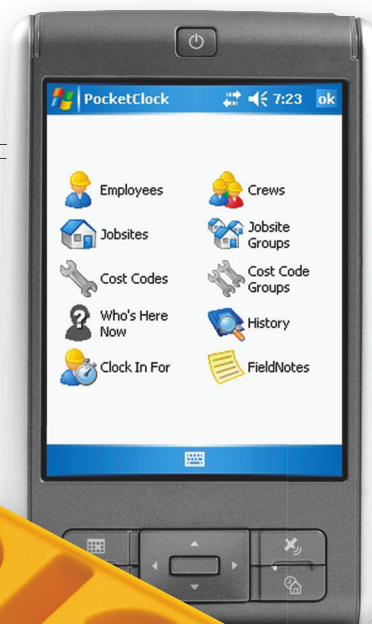
For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-294>



Exak-ly on Time

Keep tardy employees on the ball with Exaktime's Pocket-Clock/GPS software. You can turn a Windows Mobile-capable PDA into a portable time clock that also records the exact location of workers as they clock in and out. All your managers need to do is synch the PDA with your accounting or payroll system and you're done.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-295>



WINDOWS & DOORS



Don't Knock It

Wood doors — 81-percent Douglas-fir, to be precise — are back. Overhead Door's EcoBuilt line uses recycled and unused Douglas-fir from mills and fuses it with exterior grade resins. The process forms a hardy, homogenous door panel that is specially formulated to resist moisture.

For FREE info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-296>



exteriorproducts

Low Maintenance Through and Through

Peachtree's 700 Series' features run from the inside out. New double-hung models have recessed cam locks while casements have a tandem locking system. Interiors are available in standard pine or one of five hardwood interiors: alder, oak, mahogany, maple or cherry, each of which comes ready to match a home's other millwork.

For **FREE** info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-297>

Artistic Windows

A unique beveled-in profile and innovative hidden accessory grooves make Amsco's vinyl Artisan Series windows a best buy for installers. The company's new paint system and magnetic action lock round out the latest improvements. Exterior colors include autumn red, evergreen and bronze.

For **FREE** info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-299>



Open Wide

Remodelers looking for a solution to combine interior and outdoor living areas can use Hoppe's Fold & Slide hardware. Made for openings up to 48 feet wide, the system can use wood or aluminum panels as large as 3 feet by 10 feet and up to 165 pounds per panel. Precision bearings make operation a snap, and the concealed bottom channel blends with the floor.

For **FREE** info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-298>

Access Granted

The garage has always been an organizational nightmare. Help your customers out with PremierGarage's innovative, space-saving PremierAccess by pass sliding door system. It fits in spaces that don't have enough room for swinging doors, so your customers won't have to move their cars to get at their belongings.

For **FREE** info, go to <http://pr.hotims.com/20090-300>



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young leaders

***Professional Remodeler* is looking for the next generation of leaders.**

The January issue of *Professional Remodeler* will feature the **Young Leaders** — those people **under 40** who will be setting the agenda for the remodeling industry for the next decade and beyond.

To submit your nomination, please complete the form at right and fax this page to 630-288-8145 or e-mail the information to Senior Editor Jonathan Sweet at jonathan.sweet@reedbusiness.com.

Deadline: November 3, 2008

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Describe what makes the nominee a **Young Leader**:

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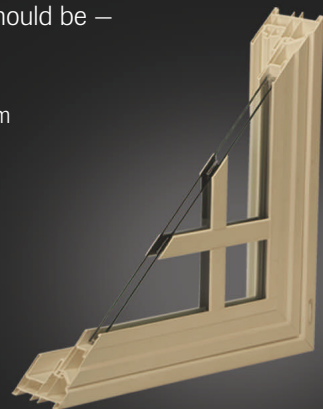


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