

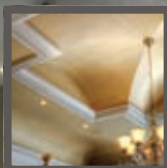
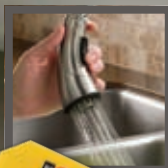
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Manitoba Market Report: An interview with MHBA president, Mike Moore

Building Science: Using retractable awnings to reduce house energy consumption

PLUS:

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No More Bumpy Rides

Winnipeg's KDR Design Builders

A Stable Time for Housing

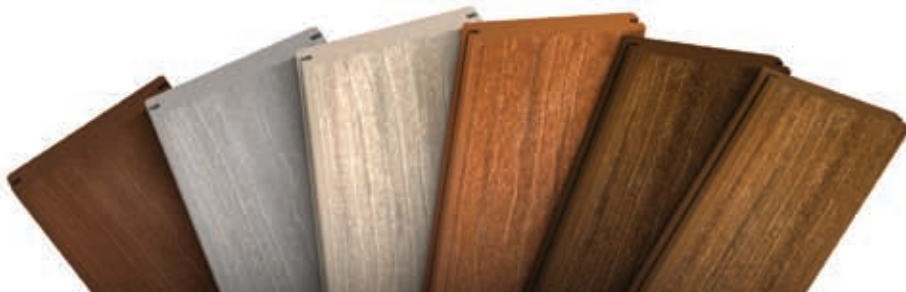
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Columns

- 10 Economics
- 12 Building Science
- 14 Customer Satisfaction
- 16 Community Development
- 38 Tool Talk

Departments

- 6 News
- 8 Association
- 42 CHBA Report
- 44 Renovation
- 44 Advertisers Index
- 45 Industry News
- 45 Calendar
- 46 Products

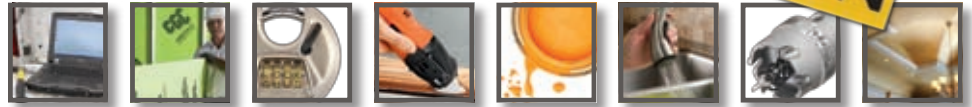
COVER

The background image on our cover showcases one of KDR Design Builders' gorgeous custom home designs. This two-storey walkout home fuses the old world look of a traditional Georgian style home on the exterior, with the latest in modern day standards, including geothermal heating and cooling system, an automated lighting, sound and alarm system, and leading edge products and materials.

Home BUILDER Magazine is published by Work-4 Projects Ltd. six times a year. Editorial/Advertising: 4819 St. Charles Boulevard, Pierrefonds, Quebec, Canada, H9H 3C7. Tel.: 514-620-2200, E-mail: homebuilder@work4.ca.
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22 10th Annual New Products Showcase

We're celebrating our tenth anniversary of this popular feature with our largest new product offering ever!



10 ECONOMICS

Midpoint in the year, 2011 is proving to be a very stable time for housing.

12 BUILDING SCIENCE

A recent shading experiment at the Canadian Centre for Housing Technology (CCHT) examined the use of retractable awnings as a means for reducing house energy consumption.

14 CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

A good test of customer loyalty is asking buyers, "How likely are you to refer this product or service to a friend?" But most home builders can predict the answer they'd receive by simply looking at their own company culture.

16 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Doesn't it seem ironic that we paved bumpy, dirt roads to ease our trip and then, some half a century later, we purposely create [speed] bumps that make the ride unpleasant? Learn about more effective solutions in Neighbourhood Roads: No More Bumpy Rides.

18 BUILDER PROFILE: Diego Vassallo, KDR Design Builders Inc.



Now in its tenth year of operation, KDR builds and renovates homes primarily in Winnipeg and its surrounding areas—and their company name says it all: K (Knowledge) D (Design) R (Reliability).

20 MARKET REPORT: Manitoba

Mike Moore, president, Manitoba Home Builders' Association, talks about the Midwest mentality and how it impacts the residential marketplace.

38 TOOL TALK

Resident expert Jon Eakes delivers on his promise in Adhesives Part II: Common Application Errors [and how you can avoid them].



Home BUILDER Magazine Buyer's Guide On-line

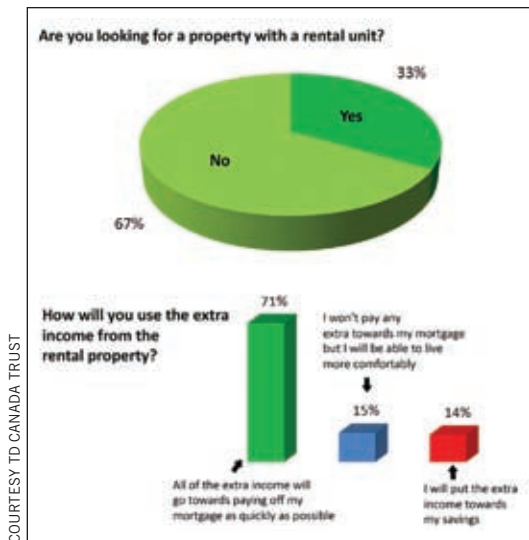


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It Doesn't Have to Take Two: Many First Time Home Buyers Fly Solo



COURTESY TD CANADA TRUST

TORONTO — House-hunters look for a place they can call their own and a recent survey finds that many Canadians are doing it completely on their own. The

Tax Refund Primarily Used to Pay off Debt

TORONTO — According to Scotiabank's Annual Income Tax Refund Poll, conducted by Harris/Decima, almost one quarter of Canadians (23 per cent) plan to put their income tax refund toward debt reduction. An additional one-in-five Canadians plan to save their refund by putting it in the bank (14 per cent), investing it (five per cent) or contributing it to their RRSP (one per cent). Eleven per cent of Canadians don't know what they will do with their tax refund. Regionally, residents of Atlantic Canada are more likely than other Canadians to put their tax refund toward home renovations (14 per cent vs. four per cent). www.scotiabank.com.

2011 TD Canada Trust First Time Homebuyers Report found that many Canadians will be buying their first home independently, rather than with a co-purchaser. Nearly six-in-ten men (57 per cent) will buy on their own, along with 33 per cent of women.

While people buying independently don't have to compromise with anyone about the features, location and type of home they're looking for, Canadian first-time buyers realize they may have to make concessions because the perfect home may not exist – or at least not be in their price range. Price is the factor Canadians are least willing to compromise on. The report found that buyers looking for a bargain expect to look for a while. One-third of those surveyed bought or plan to buy a home with a rental unit. First-time home buyers surveyed said they would not compromise on:

- Price (50 per cent)
 - Number of bedrooms (43 per cent)
 - Size of backyard/garden (41 per cent)
 - Proximity to work (39 per cent)
- They are most willing to make concessions about:
- Proximity to recreational activities (82 per cent)
 - Features of the home (82 per cent)
 - A renovated kitchen / proximity to shopping (both 79 per cent)

To read the complete report, visit www.smrme.diaroom.ca/TDFirstTimeBuyer.html

CHBA Economic Impacts of the Housing Industry - 2011 Update

OTTAWA — The 2011 estimates of the economic impacts of the residential construction industry for your area are now available online in the CHBA members' area. The information shows the tremendous contribution our industry makes to local economies. These estimates were prepared by Will Dunning Inc., a consulting firm that specializes in housing market analysis. They cover housing starts, jobs, investment and government revenues from construction of new dwellings of all types, as well as renovation, conversion and repair of existing dwellings and other expenditures relating to new residential construction.

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The Magazine of the Canadian Home Builders' Association
Vol. 24 No. 4
July/August 2011

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BUILD IT FORWARD

CALGARY — **PAUL BRANDT**, the most-awarded male Canadian country singer in history, recently partnered with a number of Canadian builders and suppliers to help make the dream of homeownership a reality for seven families. Their journey will be profiled on a new television documentary series called *BUILD IT FORWARD*, which will go to air nationally on CMT Canada later this summer.

By working in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, Samaritan's Purse, local partners and the community, seven deserving families received a new home. In turn, family members helped "build it forward" for others when they travelled with Paul to a developing area in Mexico and to Haiti to support projects to build a better life for others. Paul was so inspired by his involvement with the builders and families that he wrote the song, *Give It Away*, which is now the title track to his upcoming album.

In addition to the Government of Alberta, a variety of industry members come together to make dreams a reality, including several CHBA and CHBA – Calgary Region members. Sponsors of the project included Stepper Custom Homes, Jayman MasterBUILT, Baywest Homes, Carma Developers, The Vintage Fund, Bennett

Wrapping LEEP/ Launching TAP

TORONTO — The launch of TAP (Technology Adoption Pilot) is now underway in four regions across the province. With an eye to the next generation of energy-related technologies, a select group of Ontario home builders have enthusiastically embraced the Local Energy Efficiency Partnership/Technology Adoption Pilot (LEEP/TAP).

During the LEEP phase of the program, builders reviewed about 100 next generation technologies of varying degrees of market-readiness and selected the most promising ones for their market. As part of the TAP initiative, 40 Discovery Homes will be built, featuring the chosen technologies. Four Ontario Home Builders' Associations—BILD-GTA, London, Sudbury and Hamilton-Halton/Niagara—are participating in the LEEP/TAP program, which is managed by EnerQuality and funded by Natural Resources Canada's CanmetENERGY, the Ontario Power Authority (OPA), Enbridge, and Union Gas. www.enerquality.ca.



COURTESY OF PAUL BRANDT

Jones LLP, Harmony Park Developments Corp., Broadview Homes, Qualico Developments, Government of Alberta, Burnet, Duckworth and Palmer LLP, Kohler, Direct Energy, RBC Foundation, Husky Energy, The Ensuite, Idea Den, Fan Torrent, Keller Williams Realty South and FM Systems.

MHBA Gets Hard COR

WINNIPEG — Originally introduced in 2008 as a Manitoba Home Builders Association (MHBA) initiative, the Association has now taken a bold step forward, requiring all builder members be COR certified. The Certificate of Recognition Program (COR) is an occupational health and safety accreditation program that verifies a fully implemented safety & health program which meets national standards. The objectives of COR are to provide industry employers with an effective safety and health management system to reduce incidents, accidents and injuries as well as their associated human and financial costs.

In Manitoba, the Construction Safety Association of Manitoba (CSAM) is the Authority Having Jurisdiction to grant COR. Certification states that a home builder has taken the necessary steps to ensure safety on residential sites for employees, sub-contractors and visitors meets the requirements set out by the Workplace Safety & Health Act and Regulations. Thus far MHBA is the only construction-related industry to make COR certification mandatory.

According to MHBA president, **MIKE MOORE**, Manitoba builders have already seen a marked decrease in accidents, and builders are now asking their sub trades to get involved. It's also one more way that builders are leading by example, without government intervention.

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By Peter Norman

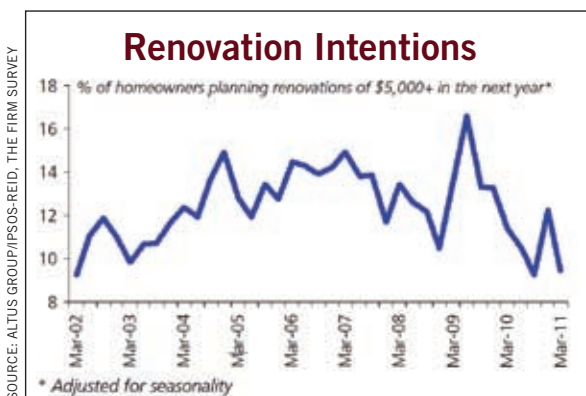
Steady Housing and Renovation Market Still Faces Challenges

At about the midpoint of the year, 2011 is proving to be a very stable time for housing. Housing starts are down modestly from 2010 but are running pretty flat on a month-to-month basis. Similarly, resale markets that saw very wide swings in the 2008-2010 period appear to be very balanced.

Total Canada-wide housing starts averaged 179,300 units seasonally adjusted at annual rates (SAAR) over the first five months of 2011, according to CMHC, off about 6.5 per cent from their 2010 pace. While total housing starts are down in 2011, this is a combination of a 13 per cent decline in the pace of single-family starts and an almost 8 per cent rise in apartments. The higher apartment showing nationally is closely linked to very strong activity in this segment in Toronto and Vancouver; both have been running with very elevated multi-family starts in recent months—up 40 per cent and 31 per cent respectively.

Despite these bright spots, lower housing starts in Atlantic Canada (down 22 per cent so far this year), Quebec (down 6.5 per cent), and Manitoba and Alberta (both down 20 per cent) has set the stage for cooler activity ahead.

The existing home sales market has adopted considerable stability in recent months, averaging pace of some 454,000 units on a SAAR basis—about on par with 2010.



Improvements accounted for about 3 out of 4 renovation dollars in 2010, with repairs the remainder.

The Bank of Canada Is Watching

Interest in housing market conditions has come lately from no less than the Governor of the Bank of Canada, who addressed the role of housing in Canada's economy in a recent speech.

In his remarks, the Governor noted that financial vulnerabilities of Canadian households has risen in recent years as debt levels (relative to income) and the housing price-to-rent ratio continues to rise.

In addition, the Governor commented on rapidly rising prices in some markets, such as Vancouver, saying that "some pockets of the Canadian housing market are taking on characteristics of financial asset markets where expectations can dominate underlying forces of supply and demand." In other words: Be cautious of emerging local bubbles.

Peter Norman is a member of the CHBA Economic Research Committee and is Chief Economist at Altus Group (formerly Clayton Research), the leading provider of independent real estate consulting and advisory services.

Renovation Update

Another important component of the housing sector is residential renovation. All told, it is a \$60 billion industry and accounts for more than 55 per cent of all residential construction spending in Canada. The renovation industry raced head at some 9.2 per cent in 2010 (adjusted for inflation) but early indications from 2011 is for a pause in growth.

A major reason for the strong growth last year (and in 2009) was the Homeowner Renovation Tax Credit (HRTC). The numbers are in from the government, and it turns out this measure delivered a wallop.

About \$2.3 billion was paid out by the program (about 75 per cent of what was originally set aside). Total residential renovation spending rose by 18 per cent over the period the credit was offered. Some three million homeowners took advantage of the credit (about 1 in 3 owner-occupied households) and received an average rebate of \$700. Was it effective in its aim of stimulating incremental spending? Alterations spending alone increased by some \$6.7 billion over the tax credit period. Using a "stretch" assumption that all the growth was stimulated by the program, a possible \$3 in spending was generated for every \$1 of HRTC.

Renovation spending has been softer since the cessation of the tax credit program. Research by Altus Group found that almost a third of those claiming the tax credit undertook projects sooner than planned. Probably most of that pulled forward demand will have moved through the system by the end of 2011, and renovation spending is expected to advance modestly in 2012. However, the sector will continue to face challenges.

For example, federal programs that have funnelled nearly \$2 billion into the renovation of the social housing stock is set to wind down later this year. More stringent rules on Homeowner Lines of Credit will also have a modestly dampening effect on renovation demand.

The Economy Remains Uncertain

Canada's general economic recovery continues, but at a modest pace. Job growth has been stronger through the recovery than after the last recession, but still suffers from weakness, particularly in terms of youth and full-time jobs.

The good news for the housing sector is that weaker than expected economic growth has extended the period of very low interest rates, perhaps well into 2012. Low interest rates are important for this sector both in terms of homeowner affordability, as well as in keeping mortgage payments in check, thereby freeing up income for discretionary renovation spending. ■



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By Marianne Armstrong (above), John Gusdorf and Aziz Laouadi

Summer Shading Performance of Awnings

Controlling solar gains in all seasons is important for minimizing the amount of energy used for space heating and cooling and for ensuring occupant comfort. During the heating season, maximizing solar gains reduces energy use, but it can result in occasional overheating and thermal discomfort, especially in highly energy-efficient houses with large areas of south- or west-facing windows. During the cooling season, solar gains should be minimized to reduce cooling loads.

A recent shading experiment at the Canadian Centre for Housing Technology (CCHT) examined the use of retractable awnings as a means for reducing house energy consumption. In the summer of 2010, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Natural Resources Canada and the National Research Council's Institute for Research in Construction used the CCHT twin houses to determine the amount of cooling energy that awnings would save. The study also compared temperatures in rooms with awnings to those without, and examined the effect of awnings on interior light levels. This followed

an earlier study of solar shading screens and rollshutters (see *Home BUILDER*, May 2010).

The awning experiment ran from August 21 to September 19, 2010. The retractable canvas awnings were mounted on the three largest south-facing windows of the CCHT experimental house and covered the top half of the glazing. The awnings were left in a single position for the duration of the experiment, though this type can be manually adjusted.

The control house was operated without awnings. Both houses featured Venetian blinds on the interior, in the open (horizontal slat) position. The two houses were operated with the windows closed and the A/C under thermostat control.

Energy Use

As expected, energy savings were greatest when there was more solar radiation. During the experiment period, the awnings resulted in average daily cooling energy savings of 3.2 kWh or 17 per cent of the total amount used in the control house. When projected to a full cooling season, the awnings are expected to result in a seasonal saving of 401 kWh or 15 per cent.

Occupants of similar houses who open windows to control temperatures, and only use the A/C when necessary, would likely incur smaller cooling loads that could result in smaller savings attributable to the awnings.

Temperatures

The awnings significantly reduced temperatures in the rooms that had awnings, and in most of the rooms

that did not. Without awnings, the daily maximum temperatures often exceed the thermostat set-point; common with large high solar gain windows. This indicates that awnings could further reduce cooling energy in houses with enough cooling capacity and enough air circulation to all rooms to maintain the set-point temperature.

Light Levels

Because the awnings cover only about the top half of a window, they do admit natural light and leave much of the view to the outside unobstructed. However, measurements at a height of 0.6 m in the living rooms showed that awnings reduced light levels (illuminance) in the rooms where they were installed, and increased the amount of time that illuminance was below recommended levels.

It is possible that some occupants would find the reduced illuminance unacceptable, and would react by turning on lights, thus negating some of the energy savings. Increased use of lights would increase energy use directly, and indirectly, by increasing cooling loads. The extent will depend on the activities the occupants are engaged in, and their subjective reactions to particular light levels.

Since savings due to awnings are in the order of three kWh per day, it seems unlikely that occasional increased use of lights would negate the energy savings to any large degree, especially in energy-efficient houses with energy-efficient lighting. It should also be noted that in very energy-efficient houses, shading devices might be controlled automatically, being deployed only when needed to avoid overheating or increased cooling loads. This is unlikely to occur during periods of low light levels.

Ramifications for Builders

Movable external shading devices, such as the awnings tested in this project, can significantly decrease the amount of energy required for cooling a house, while keeping temperatures closer to the desired level compared to houses without any shadings.

The effective use of a combination of shading with high-performing south-facing windows may represent an effective means to achieve incremental summertime savings and comfort in a low-energy house, without compromising winter performance. In some low-energy designs and locations, exterior shading could even make the difference between needing or not needing air conditioning. ■

CCHT is a partnership between the National Research Council of Canada, Natural Resources Canada's CanmetEnergy, and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. For more information, contact Marianne Armstrong at 613-991-0967 or marianne.armstrong@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca, or visit the CCHT website at www.ccht-cctr.gc.ca



The awnings are expected to result in a seasonal saving of 401 kWh or 15 per cent.

Marianne Armstrong is a Research Council Officer in the Building Envelope and Structure program of the National Research Council Institute for Research in Construction. Dr. Aziz Laouadi is a senior research officer in the Institute's Indoor Environment program. John Gusdorf, a recently retired Research Specialist from NRCan) is a building energy consultant residing in New Mexico.

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By Tim Bailey

In home building, trades and suppliers are an extension of staff.

Tim Bailey is General Manager of AVID Canada, a leading provider of customer loyalty research and consulting to the home building industry. Through the AVID system, Tim's team improves referrals, reduces warranty costs, and strengthens the brand of its industry-leading clients. He can be reached at tim.bailey@avidglobal.ca.

Driving the Customer Experience with Employee Loyalty

A good test of customer loyalty is asking buyers, "How likely are you to refer this product or service to a friend?" But most home builders can predict the answer they'd receive by simply looking at their own company culture.

Providing an exceptional customer experience should be the goal of every home builder, but that's only possible if the builder already has an environment of employee loyalty. It is foolish to believe that employees will meet and exceed customer expectations if their company is unable or unwilling to meet and exceed employee expectations.

Today's leading companies create outstanding environments for their employees and subsequently reap the benefits when those employees create outstanding experiences for customers. It is with that objective in mind that Starbucks employs "partners" instead of employees and WestJet Airlines has "owners" instead of staff.

Employee Loyalty Research

Studies have proven that a company's employee loyalty metrics provide a reasonable surrogate for their customer loyalty performance. This makes one wonder how employees would answer loyalty-based queries, such as, "How likely are you to recommend your company's product or service to a friend?" and "How likely are you to recommend a job at your company to a friend?"

Sadly, a 2010 study conducted by Forrester Research revealed that only 27 per cent of employees surveyed were "promoters" for their employers. Worse, customer service employees were among the greatest "net detractors." Fortunately, North American employees responded somewhat more positively than their European counterparts, and Canadian employees had the best results.

Most successful companies know that it takes delighted employees to create delighted customers. In fact, the No. 1 influencer of customer relations is employee relations. That in turn makes "people" the only sustainable economic advantage for a company today. Engaged, empowered, and delighted employees spread their passion to co-workers and customers. As a result, an organizational culture developed around passionate and caring employees has a strong foundation for creating memorable customer experiences.

Leadership's Role

Employee advocacy starts with passionate leaders, who are ultimately responsible for the culture of an organization. Leaders will get the behaviours that they exhibit, as well as the behaviours that they tolerate. Today's most successful companies are led by communicators, not commanders—coaches, not cops. These visionary leaders both demand and inspire people to

give their best.

To that end, companies should select and retain only employees who are customer-centric. The wise motto of Southwest Airlines is to "select for attitude and train for skill." It is the interaction between employees and customers that creates the "value zone" of every company, and disloyal or disenchanted employees quickly become a company's biggest liability. In the end, it is a company's ability to attract, motivate, and retain qualified people that will be the single best predictor of overall excellence.

Internal Customer Culture

Home builders must recognize that internal customers are as important as external customers. Employees should try to exceed the expectations of internal customers like they do for external ones. As this attitude takes hold, an organization will grow organically from being a system of processes and tasks, to becoming an entity of genuine caring, passion, and success. In home building, trades and suppliers are an extension of staff, so builders must be vigilant about who is selected to associate with their brand.

Starbucks, for example, recruits people who demonstrate "litter-picker-upper" personalities, because these people typically possess qualities of caring. Such qualities are crucial attributes for any business, but especially for a home builder, where both emotional and financial stakes run high for customers. In their book, *Managing the Customer Experience*, Shaun Smith and Joe Wheeler argue that delivering a branded customer experience involves using one's head, heart, and hands. Nowhere is this truer than in home building, where employees must use their head to know what customers expect, their heart to care about every customer encounter, and their hands to deliver an outstanding customer experience.

Advocacy Unleashed

Employees are the public face of a company and human resources are an asset to be enhanced, not a cost to be controlled. Gallop Poll and Forum Market Research studies have found that the No. 1 attribute that drives customer loyalty is "people." People set the culture within a company, and their impact on employee and customer satisfaction is undeniable. In fact, Richard Forsyth, founder of CRM Forum, reports that 66 per cent of customer loss is derived from a failure in customer service. Undoubtedly, much of that loss could be stemmed if companies engaged in more employee advocacy. It has never been more essential to understand that a company's employees are the face and reputation of the business. ■

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By Fanis Grammenos

Traffic circles are smarter bumps that cars drive by, not over.

Fanis Grammenos is a principal of Urban Pattern Associates and was a senior researcher at CMHC for 20 years. He can be reached at fanis.grammenos@gmail.com, and you can see his planning work at www.fusedgrid.ca

Neighbourhood Roads: No More Bumpy Rides

We usually renovate or replace systems when they no longer meet our requirements, the improvements often stemming from a new understanding of health, safety or efficiency concerns. We modify steep stairs to prevent falls, for example, or upgrade outdated electrical panels.

The same case can be made for remodelling roads. Sure, they have functioned for years—even if increased urbanization has called for traffic solutions in the form of speed bumps and four-way stops. But doesn't it seem ironic that we paved bumpy, dirt roads to ease our trip and then, some half a century later, we purposely create bumps that make the ride unpleasant? Does a driver exist who actually likes speed bumps and humps?

Another relic from the past is the cross intersection. When people come to it, it's a meeting place, but when cars reach it, it turns into a conflict zone. There are 32 ways that cars can collide in it. Unless the intersection is signed or signalized, every driver naturally believes in his right to act and move first. In fact, statistics show that four-way stop intersections have much higher frequency of collisions than their three-way alternative.

The lesson appears to have been learned: Neighbourhoods have started to replace their four-way junctions with other alternatives. One approach is to close one of the cross streets at the intersection, thus converting it into a three-way. Bollards, a clump of trees or planters, can make the closure an attractive feature.

Another effective solution involves the installation of a traffic circle in the exact centre of the intersection. From a driver's perspective, this addition has the effect of turning the crossing point into four virtual three-way junctions; direct forward movement is not an option. As with the closure, the circle can host shrubs, flowers, or a tree improving the street ambiance.

Safety and Flow

Closures and traffic circles are just two of many ways of adapting the previous road network to the traffic it did not anticipate. When remodelling or designing neighbourhoods for traffic, two goals are uppermost: safety and flow, and in exactly that order.

What can traffic circles do for safety? Seattle's traffic safety program, starting in the 90s, evaluated the impact of 119 traffic circles on accidents and injuries. It showed a whopping 90 per cent reduction in both. And when counting all costs related to accidents, the installation proved convincingly cost effective. Five hundred additional installations followed.

Vancouver did its own renovation and remodelling of certain streets. It included street closures, traffic circles, diverters, curb extensions, and extra traffic signs. A



Bollards turn a four-way junction into a three-way. Landscaping offers a relief.

study looked at the before-and-after frequencies of collisions and injuries in the entire district. It found that there was a general reduction of accidents by 15 per cent and, within some neighbourhoods, of about 25 per cent.

But do traffic circles improve flow? Surprisingly, yes. Even though drivers slow down to negotiate the circle and other cars, the total network flow performance improves. The lesson: Neighbourhoods can do without the old four-way intersections and improve safety to boot. Traffic circles are smarter bumps that cars drive by, not over, recapturing the comfort of a smooth drive.

These renovations bring welcome improvements to an antiquated network system.

New neighbourhoods can use the lessons from these upgrades and provide a safe and well functioning network from the start. The techniques are easy to apply:

1. Avoid intersections entirely within a neighbourhood; unimaginable but possible.
2. When junctions are necessary, use the three-way version.
3. Use turns, not curves or bumps, to slow down cars.
4. On streets surrounding the neighbourhood, use traffic circles at the intersections

With these features in place, bumpy rides can once again be a thing of the past. 🏠

Reference: Seattle's traffic safety program: www.usroads.com/journals/rmej/9801/rm980102.htm



A small circle provides a great safety bonus



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Knowledge, Design & Reliability

**Diego Vassallo:
KDR Design Builders Inc.**

BY JUDY PENZ SHELUK



Diego Vassallo began his career in residential construction as journeyman carpenter. Through continuing education and experience, he developed the organizational and managerial skills necessary to start his own building and renovation company: **KDR Design Builders Inc.** Now in its tenth year of operation, Vassallo's team builds and renovates homes primarily in Winnipeg and its surrounding areas. We met with Diego to find out what it takes to be successful in the Manitoba marketplace.

Home BUILDER Magazine: What does KDR stand for?

DIEGO VASSALLO: Knowledge: Will allow us to exceed our customer's expectations and deliver more value for their money. We learn their needs; we build tight partnerships on every project; we proactively seek feedback. Design: We approach the planning and coordination of a project by working closely with the designer/engineer to put the client's ideas on paper.

Reliability: We are committed to a higher level of advance planning and produce schedules that are realistic. We will review manpower requirements, material and equipment deliveries, safety considerations and the time of requirement of each activity.

HBM: What sets KDR apart from the competition?

DV: Simply put, KDR does not budget to the design, we design to the budget. We sit with our client and ensure that our client knows exactly what they are getting before the project begins. Everything on their wish list is discussed and decided upon before the project leaves the ground. The result is that our clients know what the project is going to cost them at the time they sign their contract. There are no "unforseens" along the way.

HBM: What is KDR's target market?

DV: Our target market is people who are looking to build a good quality new home and people who are looking to renovate their existing home. In that way, we're just like every other builder and renovator!

HBM: How important are green initiatives and eco-friendly building materials and practices

to KDR?

DV: Building energy efficient homes is very important to us. We always keep a watchful eye on new products that are eco-friendly. We educate our clients on these products and give them the option to use them in their new home or renovation project. Installation of high efficiency heating and cooling systems, R50 attic insulation, use of spray foam insulation on all attic and joist cavities, and triple-pane windows are just a few examples. We have also provided Geothermal systems for some of our clients.

HBM: If you were to pinpoint a trend in the design of a custom home, what would it be?

DV: People are no longer interested in just buying a house—they are interested in buying the lifestyle. Clients are looking for finished basements, home gyms, in-home audio and stereo systems, walkout basements, home offices, screened-in sunrooms, catered lawns that include outdoor kitchens, hot tubs and outdoor pools.

HBM: What sort of interior finishes and features top the client wish list? Which features and/or finishes are clients most likely to make concessions on if their budget doesn't match ▶ 41

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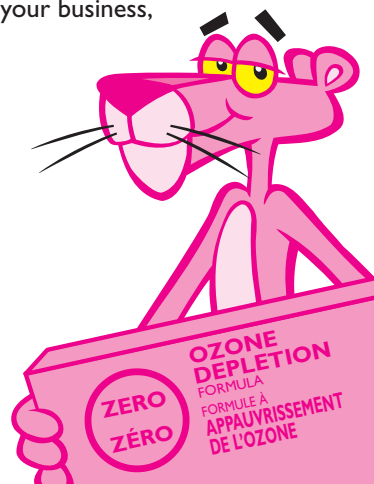


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Manitoba

Midwest Mentality



*An Interview with Mike Moore,
president, Manitoba Home
Builders' Association*



BY JUDY PENZ SHELUK

According to CMHC's Second Quarter 2011 *Housing Market Outlook*, thanks to Manitoba's Provincial Nominee Program, international arrivals [particularly in the south central regions] will boost total net migration to 11,800 in 2011 and 12,000 in 2012.

So what does that mean to Manitoba's residential construction industry? We asked Mike Moore, president, Manitoba Home Builders' Association (MHBA) to comment on some of the key issues facing builders, renovators, and the Association:

Home BUILDER Magazine: 2012 marks the 75th anniversary of the Manitoba Home Builders Association. How has this association stayed together for so long and what is being done to market/celebrate it?

Mike Moore: It's a very significant accomplishment. MHBA is one of the oldest home builders' association in Canada. In May 2011, we had a celebration dinner where we recognized all members with a minimum of 25 years. It served as a prelude to next year: everything in 2012 will honour our 75th anniversary. We want to have at least one monthly event, whether it's a curling bonspiel, a barbeque, or a Parade of Homes. There are also plans underway to build a home for Habitat for Humanity.

HBM: In late 2008 and early 2009, Canada fell into a recession in every province but one: Manitoba. What was the secret to Manitoba's financial success and how was the new home business impacted at that time?

MM: The secret is diversification. As a

province, we are not heavily reliant on manufacturing, a natural resource, agriculture, etc. It's a varied economy. Manitobans are also very cautious—we build and buy what we can afford. In the Midwest mentality, there is no boom or bust. That said, certainly new home building was impacted in 2009, falling off by about 25 per cent. But MHBA didn't lose one member due to economics; a lot of builders just spread out their work more, so top crews could stay busy 12 months of the year. It just took a little more thought and creativity.

Manitobans are very cautious—we build and buy what we can afford.

HBM: New homes in Manitoba are built to some of the highest energy saving standards in Canada. How does building in that kind of energy efficiency impact cost, design and sales?

MM: Of course we have highly energy efficient homes—we have to; we're building for

temperatures that range from -40C in the winter to +30C in the summer. The average new home in Manitoba would likely have an EnerGuide rating of about 78 or 79. Water efficiency is also one of our top priorities. Of course, green costs money, and it does impact design—but building green also helps us with the sales of new homes. Buyers are always looking to keep the heating bill in check.

HBM: Winnipeg has the third oldest housing stock in Canada, behind only Montreal and Halifax. This must have a tremendous impact on the need for home renovations.

MM: Manitoba is the only province that, year in and year out, spends more money on renovations than new home construction. Surveys indicate almost 60 per cent think of renovating. Old housing stock is typically energy-inefficient. There is also a demand for additions, kitchen and bath renos, etc. Recently, secondary suite came into legislation; that will be a wave of a future.

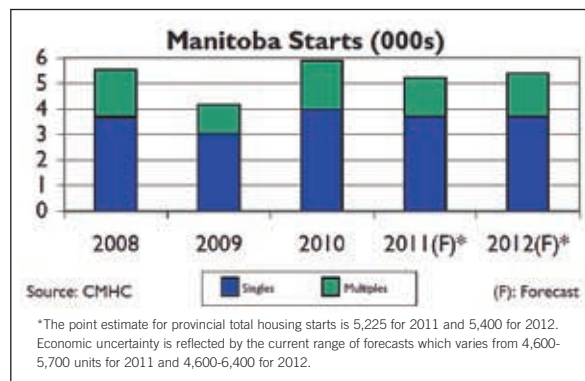
Manitoba also has fewer homes listed per capita on MLS than most other cities in Canada. Sales in the early months of 2011 have been brisk, and Winnipeg will likely remain at or near sellers' market conditions throughout 2011. New homes provide a bit of a safety net. Buyers know what they're getting...and what they have to pay.

HBM: What are some of the key issues that the MHBA is facing with (a) the province of Manitoba and (b) the city of Winnipeg?

MM: We are currently negotiating on a mandatory new home warranty program with the province. As an Association, we are pro warranty; all our members already have this in place. We just want to ensure that any formalized mandatory program is written up properly. We work diligently to keep government imposed charges and development fees in check, and to create realistic building codes. We need to keep

new homes affordable. We already have the dubious honour of having the second highest Land Transfer Tax in Canada (next to British Columbia).

In Winnipeg, permits and inspections are key issues. On the plus side, the City recently released an infrastructure report and there were no punitive tax measures on the developer; the concept of new paying for old was not recommended. They understand that new development and new housing contribute significantly to the city.





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10th Annual New Products Showcase

BY JUDY PENZ SHELUK & JON EAKES



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consistent, comfortable temperature by reducing temperature swings within your home. It's the shortest 96%+ AFUE furnace on the market allowing for versatile installations in a variety of positions, including upflow, horizontal and downflow. www.napoleonfireplaces.com.

Kohler: Numi Toilet

The Numi toilet combines unmatched design and cutting edge technologies to bring the ultimate in personal comfort and cleansing. From its striking appearance and stunning feature set to its sensible water efficiency, Numi represents a new standard of excellence in the bathroom. Compact, streamlined form, hands-free opening and closing of the toilet seat, advanced bidet functionality with integrated dryer, water efficient flush uses only 1.28 or 0.6 gallons, intuitive touch screen remote. www.kohler.com.

RIDGID: Contractor-Grade Laptops & Tablets

RIDGID, a leading manufacturer of innovative tools, equipment and video inspection devices for the professional trades, has announced a new family of rugged laptops and convertible tablet PCs, based on the award-winning Dell Latitude E-Family and customized by Dell OEM Solutions to meet the specific needs of OEMs. Pre-configured with customized software access to RIDGID informational resources and diagnostic tools, the "contractor-grade" laptops are designed to work with RIDGID inspection systems and withstand the harshest of conditions encountered on jobsites including pounding rain, blowing dust and dirt, extreme temperatures and accidental drops up to four feet. www.ridgidconnect.com and www.Emerson.com.

MousePlane: Getting Glueless

Shaped like a computer mouse and sharpened like a flat chisel, this little tool neatly cleans off excess glue with less tear-out than other planes or chisels because of the blade lying perfectly flat on the surface. A simple little tool that solves a big problem. Designed by Power Adhesives, specialists in production wood-working. www.MousePlane.com



Napoleon: Made in Canada

Napoleon has manufactured the 9600 Series Two-Stage Variable Speed High Efficient Gas Furnace—the newest HVAC in town that's built especially for North American winters. The only gas furnace designed and manufactured in Canada, the 9600 Series is a two-stage furnace, which maintains a more





SHEETROCK: Interior Glass-Mat Liner Panel

CGC Inc. has introduced SHEETROCK Interior Glass-Mat Liner Panel, available now across Canada. This high-performance, mould and water resistant glass-mat panel is for use in shaft wall systems and gypsum fire wall systems. The mould-resistant core allows the panels to be exposed to the weather for up to 12 months after application. Installation is dry and quick via a simple score-and-snap process, eliminating the need for sawing or special tools. www.cgcinc.com.

includes a submersible pump, eight-foot hose, rechargeable battery, and charging station.



Foundation: Penetrating Wood Primer

The Sansin Corporation has launched Foundation, a concentrated, penetrating, water-borne primer for both interior and exterior wood surfaces, such as timbers, logs and dimensional lumber. Ideally applied in a factory setting, Foundation stabilizes the wood tissue and lignin and keeps wood surfaces from weathering for up to six months during the construction phase. At the building site, it safeguards wood's natural resistance to moisture and ensures the finishing coats adhere and deeply penetrate for lasting beauty and protection. Available in formulas to match the most popular wood species: fir, pine, spruce and cedar. www.sansin.com

Restoration Millwork FinishedEdge: Cleaner Edges

CertainTeed Corporation has enhanced its line of Restoration Millwork PVC trim with a new FinishedEdge, providing a crisp, clean edge for Restoration Millwork trimboards and corners by heat-sealing the edges to create a quality, smooth

finish. FinishedEdge is trimmed perfectly flat for tighter tolerances so that the board is sealed at every touch point, creating a flawless, clean appearance. www.certainteed.com.

Aquacharge: Reliable and Portable

With overflowing or leaking water as one of the most common causes of household damage, ITT Corporation's AquaCharge is a reliable and portable pump that provides a fast and effective solution for excess water removal. Compact, lightweight and ideal for a wide range of home, marine and recreational applications, it employs a low-voltage battery, which is fully submersible and can be used to pump fresh or salt water. The pump package



DeWalt: 20 Volt Li-Ion Line

As the last tool company to bring Lithium-Ion batteries to the mid range cordless line, DeWalt has chosen to up the scale just a little and be the only company with a full line-up of 20-volt cordless tools. Here are lighter, more powerful tools, but they are keeping their 18-volt Ni-Cad line for better performance in extreme temperatures. www.DeWalt.com.



EcoStud: Eco-Friendly

EcoStud extruded track and studs are made from 100 per cent lightweight recycled resin, making job stocking a breeze and safe to handle with no sharp edges. Professionals enjoy sawdust-free work conditions when cutting the material and revel in the super-fast installation times. www.superiorpoly-mar.com.



Corbond III Polyurethane: Spray Gray

Johns Manville has brought Corbond III to Canada, a medium density closed-cell spray foam polyurethane insulation. Spray foam can now be gray. Of note, it can be installed at temperatures as low as -4°C. www.specjm.com.

Low VOC Waterborne Acrylic Dryfall: Spray & Sweep Away

Painting high overhead surfaces such as ceilings and joists is challenging enough, but it's especially tough to prevent the spray from getting on floors. Sherwin-Williams' new Low VOC Waterborne Acrylic Dryfall applies easily by airless spray and then dries rapidly before it even has a chance to settle. Under normal environmental conditions, this non-yellowing, low-odor acrylic dries to a removable powder from a height of at least 10 feet. Compliant with all current VOC regulations, as well as a variety of environmental requirements and guidelines. www.sherwin-williams.com.





23 ▶ Delta: Pot Filler Faucets

New Pot Filler faucets included in the Delta collection have been designed to coordinate with all of the Delta kitchen collections. Often found in high-end custom kitchens and commercial culinary spaces, pot filler faucets add convenience by enabling the user to fill a large pot with water without carrying it from the sink to the range. The new Delta brand Pot Filler faucets mount to the wall and have a 24" arm, providing sufficient height and reach for use with standard or commercial-grade ranges without difficulty or interference. www.deltafaucet.ca

PEX Cover Tube: No More Rough Plumbing

BrassCraft has introduced the new PEX cover tube with flange designed for PEX connections using standard PEX crimp rings and copper pipe, allowing plumbers to give homeowners a finishing touch in their bathrooms. The cover tube quickly and easily covers unsightly rough plumbing on most toilets, bidets and pedestal sinks. The chrome finish ensures a consistent, seamless appearance across the entire bathroom and allows for a professionally finished look. www.brasscraft.com



Moen: Safety with Style

Whether building or remodelling their bathrooms, today's homeowners focus on style and functionality, but safety is often overlooked element, simply because many safety accessories have the stigma of looking "institutional." Moen Home Care Grab Bars with Integrated Accessories combine the safety benefits of a grab bar with three

common bath essentials: a towel bar, a paper holder and a shelf, making each bath functional and fashionable. www.moen.ca

Steamist: Total Sense Control Options



Steamist is introducing two new control models for its advanced Total Sense Collection. Both of the new controls are larger than the existing models available in the collection, offering an easy-to-read user interface. The functionality includes user to start and stop the steam before entering the shower for added convenience. Available in six finishes. www.steamist.com

Samsung Electric Range: Flex Duo Technology

Samsung FE710DRS with Flex Duo technology comes equipped with a removable divider. A larger-than-normal 5.9 cu. ft. single cavity is perfect for traditional meals like turkeys, roasts, and multiple casserole dishes. Or, divide it in half and get 2.7 cu. ft. in the upper oven and 3.0 cu. ft. in the lower oven, and reduce energy consumption by 35 per cent. A Surround Airvection



Fan circulates heat evenly throughout the oven; a warming drawer doubles as ideal storage area for the divider. www.samsung.com



Fagor: Energy Efficient Induction Cooktop

Considered one the most eco-friendly appliances for its efficiency, induction cooks 50 per cent faster than gas or electric cooktops, boiling water in seconds, saving time and money. The energy from the cooktop is directly supplied to the cookware by a magnetic field, so only the cookware gets hot, not the cooktop or the kitchen. The Fagor 36" induction cooktop uses more than 90 per cent of the energy produced. www.fagoramerica.com

ABP Byerle/Amba: Sliding Door Systems

Manufactured by ABP Beyerle and distributed by Amba Products, these innovative sliding door systems are engineered for easy use and quiet movement. Glass door systems provide privacy with maximum use of light; wood door systems provide complete separation between rooms. www.ambaproducts.com



Price Pfister's Elevate Faucet: Elevate your Expectations



Price Pfister's newest faucet, Elevate, provides users with the freedom to customize the faucet's height. Some of Elevate's unique features include: adjustable spout to set faucet to the desired height; ergonomic pull out sprayer for efficient rinsing, cleaning, and filling functionality; swivels 360 degrees for maximum maneuverability and positioning; versatile design that works with both contemporary and traditional kitchens; adaptable installation with the ability to be mounted with a deckplate for 4-hole configuration and without deckplate for 2-hole configurations. Price Pfister's Elevate is currently sold exclusively at Lowe's. www.pfisterfaucets.com





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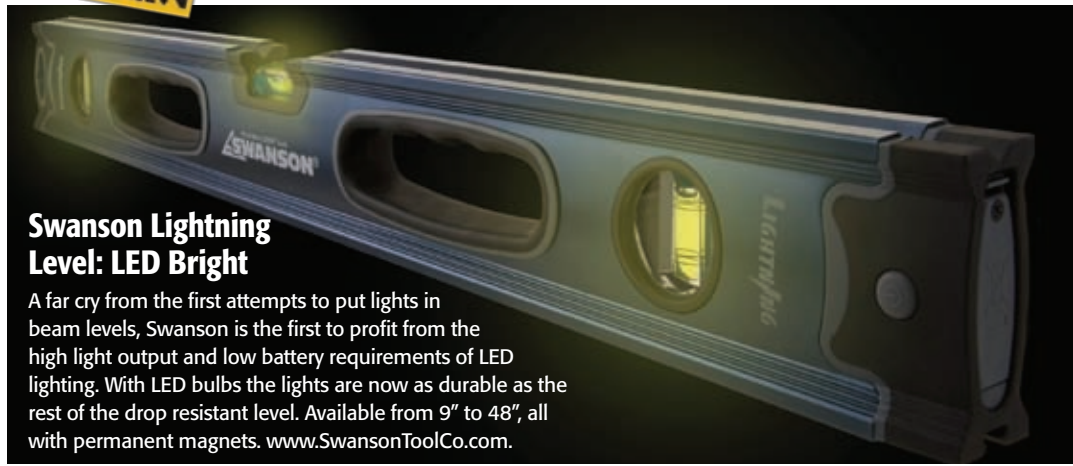
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24 ▶



Swanson Lightning Level: LED Bright

A far cry from the first attempts to put lights in beam levels, Swanson is the first to profit from the high light output and low battery requirements of LED lighting. With LED bulbs the lights are now as durable as the rest of the drop resistant level. Available from 9" to 48", all with permanent magnets. www.SwansonToolCo.com.



Chek. The IEQ meter has 7-sensor capacity and measures, monitors and records temperature, humidity, CO₂, CO, O₂, NO₂, NO, HCHO, SO₂, NH₃, H₂S, Combustible Gasses and VOC's. These are becoming essential tools for HVAC contractors dealing with indoor air quality issues. www.MyBacharach.com.

Venstar: ColorTouch



Now you can add color to touch screen thermostats. In addition to all the time and temperature information you need in a thermostat you can program custom screen savers into this wall mounted thermostat, including slideshows and clocks: technology merging with décor. A street price of under \$200. www.venstar.com.

Fein: Cordless Super Cut Oscillation Multi-Tool

The professional line of the Fein oscillation tools has always been the extra heavy duty Super Cut series, running with the most power of any on the market and a wider swing angle than their own Multi-Masters. Now they have brought out an 18-volt cordless Super Cut that has almost as much power and Fein's Quick Change blade lever. Trade specific kits are available. www.Fein-SuperCut.com.



Porter Cable: Oscillating Multi-Tools

With the explosion of oscillating tools on the market, Porter Cable enters the competition with both a 12-volt cordless and a 2.5 Amp corded model numbers PC250MTK &



PCL120MTC-2.

Both models incorporate a Tool Free System for accessory change by simply pressing a lever. The cordless unit includes a LED work light. www.PorterCable.com.

Microtherm: Heat Stress Monitor



Heat Stress can be a serious safety hazard in certain environments, even ones as common as residential attics. The Microtherm Heat Stress monitor from Casella continuously monitors, locally or at a distance, the heat stress combined factors of humidity and temperature. Whether you're a workman or a foreman, this device can get you out of a serious problem before you even realize that you are in danger. www.CasellaUSA.com.

Bosch: GLM 80 Distance Measurer

Bosch has brought out the first 90-Degree two axis tilt sensor laser distance and angle measurer. It can measure the height of and distance to an object with only one click of a button by automatically combining height and angle measurements. The sensor lets you know when you are sighting horizontally or vertically. It can be integrated into the Bosch R-60 digital level attachment. www.boschttools.com.



TC-40: Powered Plastic Pipe and Tube Cutter



No more ratcheting and cutting up to 1-5/8" diameter in four seconds. Designed to cut Polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), PEX, rubber hose, PVC and CPVC the 12 volt cordless pipe and tube cutter from Ridgid will make 250 cuts per charge. Quick blade release and reverse drive makes cutting in the open or in tight spaces a breeze. www.Ridgid.com.



TKO: Carbide Tipped Sheet Metal Hole Saw

This saw from Ideal will cut smoother burr-free holes than bi-metal saws. The SmoothStart pilot drill is specifically designed for a non-drifting start in sheet metal and the spring plug ejector clears the disk instantly ready for the next hole. www.IdealIndustries.com.

Bacharach: New IEQ for HVAC Contractors

Bacharach Inc. has just released two new Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) monitors: Comfort Chek 500 Carbon Dioxide monitor and their IEQ

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* See limited warranty for complete coverage and restrictions. The word "lifetime" means as long as the original owner (or second owner, if the warranty was properly transferred during the Smart Choice Protection Period) owns the building on which the shingles were installed.

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26 ▶

RIDGID: R3250 Twin Blade Circular Saw



Ridgid has made an amazing little circular saw that breaks new ground for cutting sheet product including sheet metal from aluminium to stainless as well as plastic, vinyl and can even handle wood and rebar! The Twin Blade is built with two 5" carbide tipped blades that rotate in opposite directions. This eliminates kicking and vibration

and gives burr and splinter free cuts in all materials. Includes wax sticks for cutting aluminium. Having no shoe, it is not designed for precision work, but guides extremely easily with just an up-front "toe" that follows uneven surfaces easily. www.Ridgid.com.

Stanley: Utility Cutter

Using standard utility blades in a sheer hand tool is a very interesting way to always have a sharp edge with a thin blade. It is designed with a wide 1" jaw opening. www.StanleyTools.com.



Stanley: Sweetheart Socket Chisels

Stanley is bring back some of its heritage tools. The Sweetheart Socket Chisels are based on the classic 750 design, one of the best chisels Stanley ever made. They are designed for striking and paring with the handles made of durable hornbeam wood. Established fine craft tools are coming back. www.StanleyTools.com.



Trim-A-Gutter Bracket: Low Cost Gutter Cover

Van Mark Products has introduced its new 6" bracket for the proven, highly profitable Trim-A-Gutter system. Inexpensive, easy to use, and versatile, the Trim-A-Gutter system forms custom gutter-covers right on the jobsite for both 5" and 6" K-style gutters. Using the patented brackets with trim or gutter coil, the cost per foot to make gutter-cover is one of the lowest on the market, and one of the most profitable systems to use. Visit www.van-mark.com for details.



FCC7 Angle Cutter: Guillotine Sharp

With fibre cement dust from cutting siding being a problem, Malco Products custom build a guillotine style Angle Cutter which quickly produces 3/12 to 12/12 pitch cuts in 5/16" (8mm) fibre cement siding. Designed for leveraging your weight by working on the ground, it can cut any roof pitch in planks up to 12". www.MalcoProducts.com.

Stanley: FatMax Xtreme Framing Hammer

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www.StanleyTools.com.





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28 ▶



Schlage LiNK: Remote Home Management

The Schlage LiNK system is a remote home management system that consumers a convenient and affordable way to self-monitor and control access to their homes 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a week from anywhere in the world via computer or web-enabled cell phone. When paired with a Trane Remote Energy Thermostat, the Schlage LiNK system gives consumers total control of a homes' ventilation and air conditioning system. Pictured: Schlage LiNK starter kit, which includes the wireless keypad lock, the bridge (the "brains" of the system) and a light module to remotely control one light. www.link.schlage.com.



RadianceRail Express: Ease of Installation

Similar to RadianceRail, RadianceRail Express is made from precision-engineered TimberTech composite capped with a durable PVC layer giving it the sturdy and structural feeling of a wood railing with a cleaner look while providing the additional value of expedited installation. The system can be installed at 45 degrees without unsightly overhangs on the post cover and is available in 36" and 42" heights. Rail packs come in 6' or 8' sections that are pre-routed and include top rail, bottom rail, and mounting hardware. Baluster packs will come in 36" or 42" square profiles. www.timbertech.com.

Design Pro LED Modular 2.0: Energy Saving Light

Kichler Lighting has introduced Design Pro LED Modular 2.0 and Disc System. Featuring an ultra-sleek profile, this energy-saving cabinet lighting product can fit into even the most slender spaces. With a limited lifetime warranty, high brightness, cool operating temperature and superior color rendering, the Design Pro LED Modular 2.0 uses 75 percent less electricity than incandescent lighting and has a



40,000-hour lifespan. Also compatible with Z-Wave® home automatic equipment, it offers full dimmable capabilities. www.kichler.com



JELD-WEN: Classic Collection

JELD-WEN has launched its Classic Collection, premium quality windows and patio doors made with the company's proprietary AuraLast treated wood. Available in pine, alder or Douglas Fir, the Classic Collection includes double-hung, casement, awning, bay and bow styles, as well as radius and geometric windows. Low-E 179 insulating glass is standard. Patio door options include swinging doors with one, two or more panels, sliding doors and French doors that open in the middle. www.jeld-wen.ca.



Biobarrier: Geotextile Landscaping Solution

Biobarrier is a 4oz. Typar geotextile manufactured by Fiberweb and it has small plastic nodules attached to it which diffuses and as needed under a patented system the herbicide Trifluralin which is less toxic than table salt or aspirin. The herbicide used is not systemic. Sold in the USA for more than 33 years, it has been approved by PMRA (Canada) for commercial and residential application. www.dbbinc.ca.

▶ 32



Natural Born Leader

This new kind of water heater saves homeowners approximately \$320 a year* in water heating operational cost. The footprint is similar to a standard tank model, and it uses existing water and electrical connections.

Set yourself apart by installing the GE Hybrid water heater and giving homeowners the energy savings they're looking for. For more information call 1-855-742-6112

*Based on DOE test procedure and comparison of a 50-gallon standard electric tank water heater using 4881 kWh per year vs. the GE Hybrid water heater using 1856 kWh per year.



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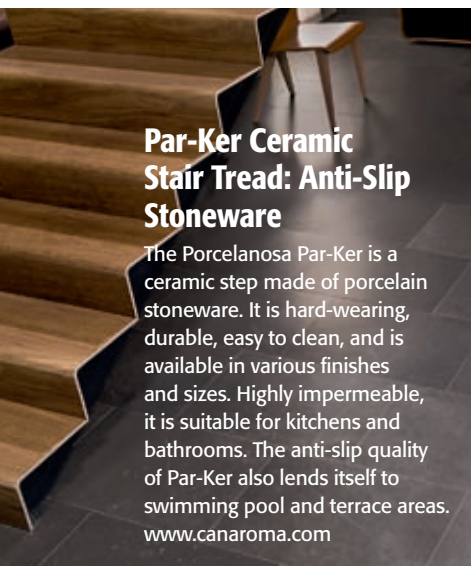


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30 ▶ **Armstrong: Fibreglass Vinyl Floors**

What's fibreglass vinyl? It's a new generation of resilient flooring that uses glass fibre as part of the product's core. Its fibreglass inner core provides stability, enabling the floor to lie flat without glue. Armstrong's new Duality stands out with ultra-realistic, three-dimensional designs combine with the company's ToughGuard Flex backing to offer incredible durability. The new collection is organized by looks: Stones, Woods and Alternatives, and then broken down by performance attributes, features and benefits unique to each selection. www.armstrong.com.



Par-Ker Ceramic Stair Tread: Anti-Slip Stoneware

The Porcelanosa Par-Ker is a ceramic step made of porcelain stoneware. It is hard-wearing, durable, easy to clean, and is available in various finishes and sizes. Highly impermeable, it is suitable for kitchens and bathrooms. The anti-slip quality of Par-Ker also lends itself to swimming pool and terrace areas. www.canaroma.com

Beauti-Tone: Breathe Easy

By the end of summer 2011, all colorant used in all Beauti-Tone, Designer's Series Paints, and Natura paint will contain no VOCs. Manufactured in Canada by Home Hardware, Beauti-Tone is sold exclusively at Home Hardware stores across the country. Beauti-Tone's no VOC colorants have been tested in a number of Home Hardware stores, using measures including colour accuracy, freeze/thaw tolerance, coverage, performance, and consumer satisfaction. www.homehardware.ca.



Sico Cashmere: Crème de la Crème

Sico has announced the re-launch of its top-of-the-line Cashmere paint. Developed using a new, improved formula that still features innovative thermoplastic beads, Cashmere delivers a gloss-free, ultra-smooth, luxurious, durable and washable finish. A paint and primer-in-one, Cashmere is a 100 per cent acrylic latex interior paint, virtually-odourless, zero-VOC (before tinting) paint, which exceeds industry environmental standards. www.sico.ca.

ECO5: Year-Round Performance

Ply Gem Canada has introduced its new ECO 5 double-glazed glass option that significantly improves overall energy performance in windows and



doors. As one of the most energy efficient double-glazed options in western Canada, ECO 5's outstanding U-value of 0.20, solar heat gain coefficient of 0.34 and its R-value of 5 deliver high energy performance year-round to keep homes cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

The ECO 5 glass option is available in new construction and replacement windows and doors. www.plygem.ca.

Amerock: Hardware Previews New Fall 2011 Offerings

Amerock recently previewed 165 new products being added to its unique portfolio of offerings in September 2011, further expanding the company's selection to include more than 3,000 eye-catching decorative hardware solutions. www.amerock.com.



Archways & Ceilings: Making WOW Easy

Give your customers "WOW" with custom framing kits for soft, half circle and elliptical arches, dome ceilings, groin vaults, coved ceilings and barrel vaults. Affordable and easy to install, these kits are new to Canada. www.archkits.ca



Open Sesame: Designer Doors

A new interior design concept has just emerged with the sesame door system. Intended for the residential construction and renovation market, as well as for the contract sector, this concept is built on the idea of offering decoration professionals and consumers the freedom to choose the design of their interior doors. Designed and manufactured entirely in Québec according to top-quality standards and a unique technology, Sesame doors stand out for their aluminum section frames that allow for the insertion of different types of panels in various materials. www.portes-sesame.com.



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32 ▶ IB-3 Stormstopper: Long Lasting Roof Barrier

IB-3 StormStopper is an easy-to-install self-adhering mineral surface underlayment, which adheres directly to the roof deck. The specially formulated rubberized asphalt adhesive seals around fasteners and forms a long-lasting barrier. The product is engineered to provide a water and weatherproof barrier against blowing rain, ice dams or the build-up of excessive water. www.solutions.mfmbp.com.



Xmark: Static Sheeting

How about some cling wrap for your renovation project? Xmark Static Sheeting are large rolls of durable transparent sheets which cling to your site without adhesives and little or no taping. It sticks to the walls, and paint and dust sticks to it—less clean-up. www.PaisleyPro.com.

Blundstone: Comfy Greenpatch Boots

These work boots look too comfortable to merit a CSA green tag. Greenpatch Boots pull on and kick off like Blundstone's civilian boots but they are in fact very protective work boots. Steel toes, comfortably shaped and padded soles with light flexible Kevlar mid-soles that will stop any nail. The moulded soles use no adhesives, so they never come apart. www.blundstone.ca.



TDC4: Solar Thermal Controller

Sorel is proud to introduce the new TDC4 Controller for Solar Thermal applications. Offering a newly enhanced feature set with 22 different operating modes for solar thermal and standardized delta-T control applications. SOREL TDC controllers are distributed in North America by Thermaltech Systems Inc. www.thermaltechsystems.com



Briza: The World's Slimmest Fan Coil



Jaga Climate Systems has introduced the Briza, the world's slimmest fan coil, available in 2-Pipe and 4-Pipe configurations. Briza is available in a large range of colors and is one of the quietest units on the market—producing a mere 30 dBA. Measuring just 5.75 inches deep, the Briza can be mounted horizontally on a ceiling or vertically on a wall and easily connected to low-temperature systems like heat pumps, solar energy systems and condensing boilers. www.jaga-canada.com.

Air King: 48-Inch Outdoor Range Hood

Covered outdoor kitchens are gaining in popularity and Air King has introduced its Model P1848m Professional Outdoor Series range



hoods for ventilating smoke and odours that can accumulate. The range hoods are ETL listed for damp locations and can be customized to the ventilation needs of the grill with HVI-certified performance options up to 1200 CFM. The 48-inch width of the Model P1848m range hood allows it to be installed over most outdoor grills. To give the installation a finished look, matching soffits and backsplashes are also available. www.airkinglimited.com



Coty: Zone Control Auto Air Flow

Zone control with forced air furnaces and air conditioners are usually very complex. Auto Air Flow Registers from Coty Products Canada are simply floor or wall grills with a motorized damper right in the grill. They are controlled by individual wall mounted thermostats. You can use them selectively or throughout the house. They operate from 10 to 30°C. www.autoairflowregister.com.

Intarcia: Tub Treasure

Low and sleek, the Intarcia tub has arched ends to match the natural curve of your spine, and can be ordered as a soaking tub or air bath. The Intarcia freestanding bath tub and Intarcia sink are products of the collaboration between MTI Whirlpools and world-renowned kitchen and bath designer Matthew Quinn. mtiwhirlpools.com.



Odyssey: Overhead Door Opener

Introduced in 2011, new Overhead Door and Genie openers feature powerful yet quiet 1/4" HP DC motors that provide enough power to open even the heaviest residential garage doors, while still offering quiet and smooth operation. Overhead Door's Odyssey 1200 and Destiny 1500 openers, along with Genie's TriloG 1500 and 1200 openers, are set up with direct drive screw systems. Genie's IntelliG 1200 and 1000 openers can be ordered with belt or chain drives. www.overhaddoor.com.



TOLKO: Improved OSB Flooring

Tolko Industries, Ltd., a Canadian-owned forest products company based in Vernon, B.C., has begun distributing T-Grade, a new, re-engineered oriented strand board flooring for the residential market. Moisture-resistant and edge-coated, it repels warping and stays true. Panel surfaces are skip-sanded to provide a tight tongue-and-groove fit, and a smooth floor surface between panels. Backed by a 25-year limited warranty. www.tolkco.com



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www.rinnai.ca



34 ▶ Ice Guard: Pipe Freeze Protection

The Danfoss Self Regulating Ice Guard cable (SRIG) automatically adjusts its heat output to the changing temperature conditions. The Ice Guard cable is available in lengths from 6 to 100 foot lengths in either 120 or 240 volt. Each cable comes with a six-foot-long power lead, is constructed of 16 AWG bus cable and carries a 2-year warranty. Typically used for pipe freeze protection as well as roof and gutter de-icing, the Danfoss Ice Guard cable is a simple solution for all freeze protection needs. www.lx.danfoss.com

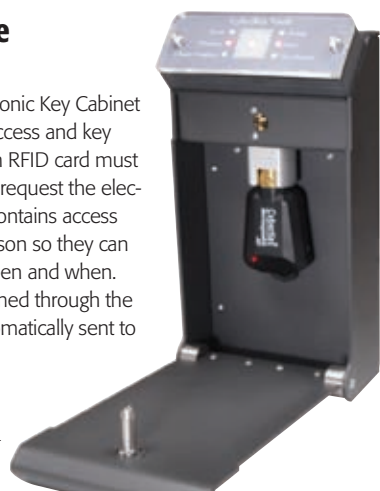
Bobcat: Rubber Tracks

Earth Force Bar H-pattern rubber tracks are a multiple application choice for compact track loaders, compact excavators, and mini track loaders. The H-pattern lug design uses a pyramid structure for more even weight distribution and wear. A series of innovations give longer life to replacement tracks. www.Bobcat.com/RubberTracks.



CyberKey: Cost-effective Key Control

Videx's CyberKey Vault 'Single' Electronic Key Cabinet offers a cost-effective way to have access and key control exactly where it's needed. An RFID card must be presented to open the Vault and request the electronic key. The key that is released contains access permissions specific only to that person so they can do their job: what locks they may open and when. The Vault keeps management informed through the audit reports and alerts that are automatically sent to them. www.cyberlock.com.



Wordlock: Letter Perfect Locks



Whether it's for a tool shed, gym locker, or piece of luggage, lock combinations can be forgotten, keys can be lost or locks can get weathered. To solve this problem, Wordlock offers a full line of locks that use letter and word combinations that can be set and re-set by the user. Wordlock's patented algorithms can create up to 100,000 different letter combinations on five position locks. www.wordlock.com.



EnviroSAND: Paving Stone Stabilizing Sand

The company EnviroBond has brought out an organic paving stone stabilizing sand that is the perfect balance between sand that washes away and polymer sands that end up cracking. There is freedom of movement

between all stones as with simple sand, but a flexible bonding coating that holds onto the sand, and every time it gets wet, EnviroSAND swells and self-heals any small cracks, keeping a permanent barrier against plant intrusion. www.EnviroBond.com.



BAZZ: Affordable LED

Bazz has launched a new collection of affordable LED. Available at most Canadian home improvements stores at a great pricing point, the collection includes LED Cubes on which you can sit, LED Panels sensitive to music, LED flower pots, LED decorative Balls, LED desk lamps, and of course LED recessed fixtures. www.bazz.ca.

Easi-Lite Lightweight Gypsum Board: Easier Installation

A new drywall solution, Easi-Lite gypsum board, is up to 30 per cent lighter than standard gypsum boards, and can be used for both interior ceilings and walls in residential and commercial applications. Easi-Lite gypsum board is easy to score and snap for improved installation. Designed with sag resistance, it is ideal for 1/2-inch ceiling applications, allowing for one board type to be used on the interior walls and ceilings. www.CertainTeed.com.



DeWalt: Precision Framing Blade

DeWalt's latest entry into the competition for framing blades is one with some special geometry. Most notable are the redesigned resin filled expansion slots. The anti-kickback shoulder also reinforces the carbide tooth for impact resistance. They are available in a variety of circular saw sizes and tooth counts. www.DeWalt.com.

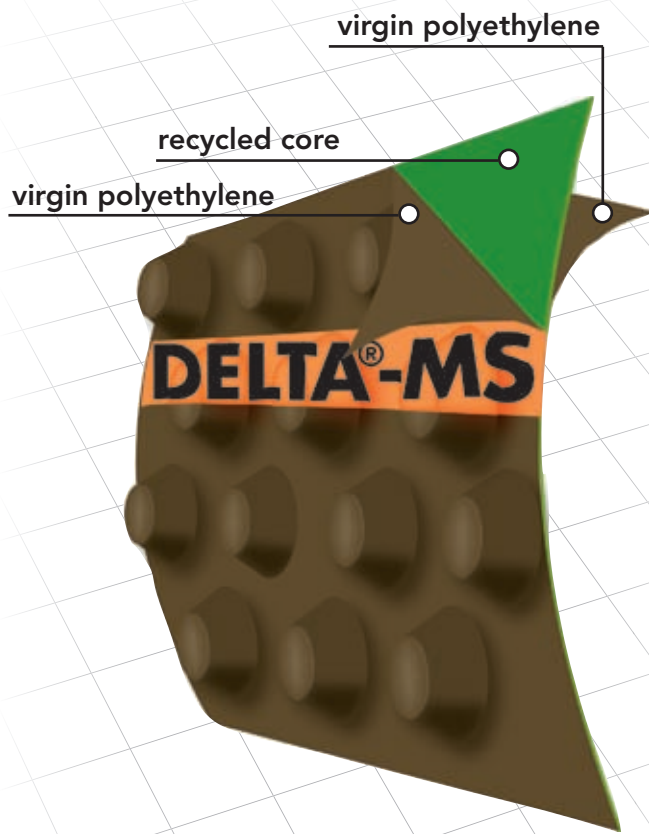


AS179 Brick and Mortar Saw: Oscillating on Steroids

Two counter direction oscillating carbide tipped hammering blades make this unique tool from Arbortech an incredible advance in cutting tough stuff like brick, mortar, fibre cement as well as foam, PVC, acrylic and fibreglass sheets. Oscillation throws little dust, the cut is easily controlled and allows for clean square plunges, like taking out one brick. Up to 4-3/4" depth and only 1/4" width. An oscillating tool on steroids. www.as170.com.

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Adhesives Part II: Common Application Errors

[and how you can avoid them]

In our May 2011 issue, we addressed the difference between glues and adhesives. This issue we'll help you tackle some of the most common application errors.

Spread & Surface Contact

If you apply an adhesive to a dirty surface, you stick to the dirt and hope the dirt is well stuck to the surface—so yes, you should clean the surface more than you usually do! Steel wool and solvent is essential for caulking and the quickest way to get off atmospheric grime. One exception is when a “clean” and flat residue is so well stuck (like old carpet adhesive) that the old can actually be considered a primer coat.

Clean and dry? Not always. Some adhesives, like polyurethanes, actually require a bit of moisture to properly cure. So we don't want a wet surface that could dilute the adhesive, but silicones and polyurethanes and spray foams could actually profit from a slight misting of a dry surface before application.

Surface contact for the adhesive is critical. In woodworking we often apply glue to one side and then rub the two pieces together to assure full coverage of both sides. Large

ceramic tiles can always profit from a very thin “back-buttering” of thin-set mortar on the tile itself before pressing into the troweled thin-set on the floor. This gives a mortar to mortar contact. When applying a bead of adhesive, like on the back of large panels, apply to one side only and then press it immediately into place, maybe slide it slightly to spread out the adhesive or pull it off and put it back (see solvent flashing below). This assures that the bead on the wall lines up perfectly with the bead on the panel. Underwater adhesives must be worked into the surface, essentially squeezing out all the water.

Skinning and Flashing

Skinning is not good if the contact to the surface is not yet made; we need it wet to the surface. Don't get too far ahead of yourself in applying adhesives.

Solvent flashing is a process where we put the adhesive into place between two non-absorptive surfaces and then pull them apart to allow the solvents to partially evaporate, but not let the adhesive totally dry. Typically “flashing of the adhesive” is required behind vinyl tub surrounds over tiles to avoid trapping too much solvent, which in turn could burn into the vinyl.

Plasters and drywall compounds are actu-

ally one form of a gap-filling adhesive. When used between two panels where a lot of quick evaporation could cause problems, use powder mixed chemical setting compounds like DuraBond, which will cure before they slowly dry out.

The Interesting Case of Thinset Mortars

Latex or polymer modified thinset mortars have provided better tile adhesion to plywood substrates, but must never be used between tiles and a waterproof membrane; thinset mortars will have trouble drying out and giving good bonding. Rather, you want to use unmodified thinset that cures before it dries. For example, when installing a Kerdi waterproof membrane in a shower or a Ditra uncoupling membrane on a floor or counter, use modified thinset between the plywood and the membrane and un-modified between the membrane and the tile.

A little tip on thin-set mortars: Each company makes a “good,” “better,” and “best” line of thinset price points, all of which satisfy the ANSI standards. Let's admit that “good” translates to “minimally acceptable.” The actual difference between the minimum “good” and the more expensive “better” and “best” (the latter sometimes being referred

► 40

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38 ▶ to as “premium”), is they tend to be easier to spread, have increased tackiness at application and hold moisture longer for a better cure. Using these “premium” thinsets in jobs where maximum adhesion, even waterproofing, should be maintained, such as with shower membranes, not only assures good results but makes the application a breeze.

Long Term Degradation of Adhesives

Organic mastic paste can be used for tiles on walls, but if used in high water vapour areas the cured mastic itself can feed mould behind the tiles. Never consider the grout and even all tiles to be vapour proof! Use waterproof backings and inert thinset mortars to remove all food for mould in any constant moisture area.

Quick Grab

You all know contact cement as a quick grab adhesive—let the solvent out then push the two pieces together. One problem is that you only get one chance at positioning the two pieces.

New Quick Grab or Power Grab adhesives

have an extremely high tack but can be slid around before setting, specifically designed for mouldings and decorative add-ons with little or no nailing.

One tip for laminate edge trim pieces: Apply a first coat of contact cement to the edge of the particle board or plywood and let it dry overnight—really totally dry. Using water-based contact cement will work best because it is thinner and will soak in deeper. By letting a primer coat dry on the absorptive edge of the wood, the regular “coat both surfaces” technique the next day will not disappear into the wood but will stick extremely well to the primed edge—and you will never again go back to re-glue that edge trim piece. Even if using hot applied pre-glued banding tape, I prime the wood first.

Removing Adhesives

Finally, good adhesive removers are showing up in the stores for that old carpet glue. They are labelled as being specifically for carpet glue. They are expensive and slow to act, but they work. Always cover with a plastic

sheet to force the solvents into the glue rather than letting them escape without softening the glue.

The only silicone caulking remover that I can still find on the market, that won't eat vinyl or fibreglass at the same time, is **Re-Mov** (www.RemovCanada.com). It does not soften the silicone but attacks the bond between the silicone and the surface; work it into the joint while pulling up the caulking like a rubber cord.

Coming next issue: Some specialist tools for working with adhesives.



Montreal-based TV broadcaster, author, home renovation and tool expert Jon Eakes provides a tool feature in each edition of **Home BUILDER**.
www.JonEakes.com

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BUILDER PROFILE



People are no longer interested in just buying a house—they are interested in buying the lifestyle.

18 ▶ the dream? Which ones are non-negotiable and how do you manage those expectations?

DV: Topping the wish list we have: granite and concrete countertops, hardwood flooring, large kitchens with space for state-of-the-art appliances, maple kitchen cabinets, funky backsplashes, and high-end bathroom ensuites. We can often use different materials to get the same feel at a lower cost. White woodwork instead of wood stain, laminate instead of hardwood, and dura-ceramic instead of ceramic tile are some common suggestions to get the look within the budget.

HBM: What is the top renovation request and how old is the average home?

DV: Our top renovation request is to make the existing space larger; sometimes the client wants to add a room to their home and at other times the client is looking to add a complete second story. Our average home is 25 to 30 years old.

HBM: What are the biggest challenges facing Manitoba custom builders and renovators today, and why?

DV: Keeping up with technology: instant com-

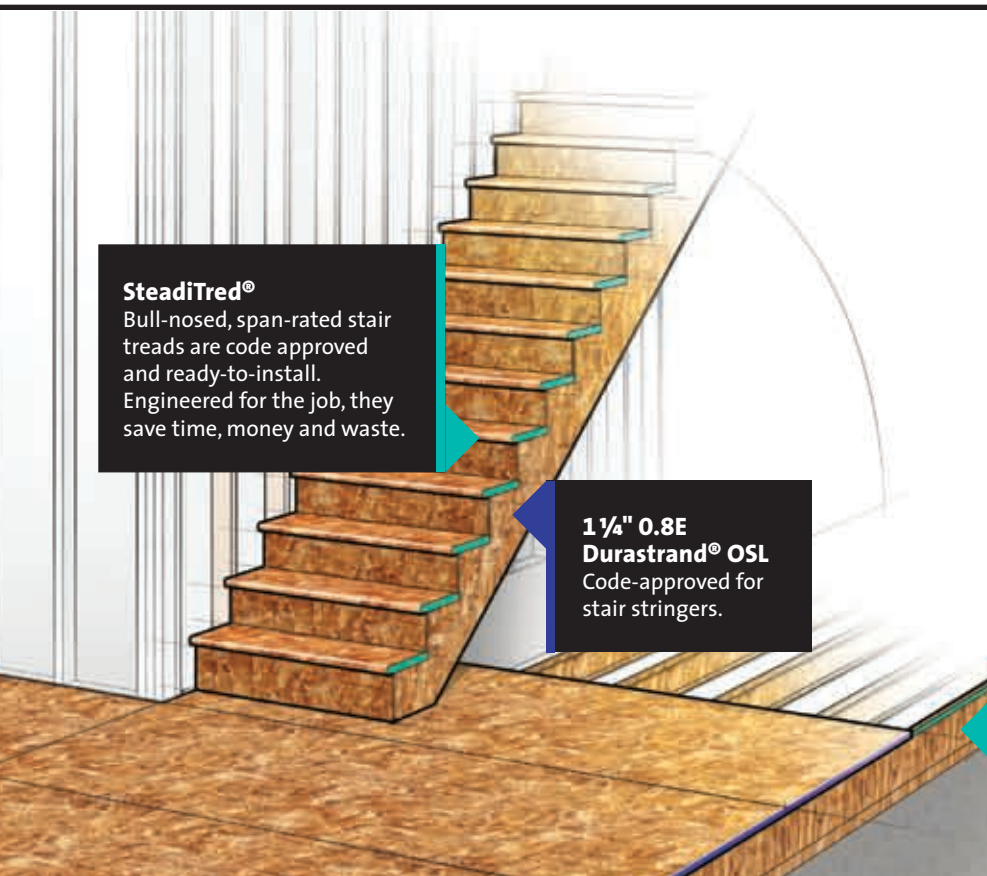
munication at your fingertips. QR codes are something we are now using to market ourselves and our product.

HBM: How important is your membership with MHBA, and why?

DV: Having volunteered on the MHBA over the past three years, I recognize the importance of having one body represent Manitoba Home Builders; to ensure that we have one united voice. MHBA also provides a forum to educate its membership with respect to technology and business practices. It promotes affordability and choice in housing for all Manitobans.

HBM: MHBA has mandated COR certification to its members. Is KDR COR certified, and do you see the benefit of this certification and/or policy?

DV: KDR has always recognized the importance of maintaining safe worksites, not only for our employees and sub-trades, but for our clients and the public. We have been COR certified since January 2010. When it comes to workplace accidents our goal is zero tolerance. 🏠



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Vince Laberge
President, CHBA

These young people, currently having so much difficulty finding a good job, are tomorrow's first-time home buyers.

It's All About Jobs

As we all know, our industry is a powerful generator of good, well-paying jobs. When demand for new homes and renovations is strong, the home building industry responds quickly, creating impressive numbers of new jobs, and fueling enormous economic activity.

For our industry to operate to its full potential there must be confidence in economic fundamentals. And more than anything else, this means our prospective customers must feel secure about their jobs and their economic futures.

That's why I see the recent federal budget as a positive step towards economic renewal, and creating an environment in which our industry can contribute fully to Canada's long-term economic well being.

In announcing the budget, Finance Minister Flaherty took direct aim at the importance of job growth to Canada's economy. The message was clear in the Budget's title: *A Low-tax Plan for Jobs and Growth*. To this end, the Budget stated that supporting job creation involves "creating the right environment for businesses and entrepreneurs to invest in Canada and succeed in the global economy, leading to higher rates of productivity growth, more and better-paying jobs for Canadians, and a higher standard of living."

Make no mistake, this Budget was all about enabling the private sector to create jobs, and correctly so. It is clear from Minister Flaherty's budget statement that, going forward, the government's measure of economic and political success will be job growth.

Job Growth and Housing Demand

The importance of job growth for our industry was highlighted in a recent paper by the Altus Group, released just prior to the CHBA's spring meetings in Ottawa.

Altus noted that while Canada's economy is out of recession, and headline job numbers are encouraging, underlying trends in labour markets are still troubling:

- Full-time jobs have yet to recover to their pre-recession levels. Canadians are still working fewer hours, and making less money, than before the recession began.
- Employment performance is particularly worrisome among younger people, aged 15 to 24, which remains well below pre-recession levels. If you are a young person in Canada looking for a job, the recession is still happening. The number of youth jobs fell by almost 10 per cent during the recession and have not recovered.

Let me point to the obvious concern: These young people, currently having so much difficulty finding a good job, are tomorrow's first-time home buyers. And until their job prospects improve and they become financially established, home ownership is not something they will be able, or inclined, to consider. Given this reality, I'm pleased that Minister Flaherty stated clearly the federal

government's commitment to supporting private sector job creation as a key measure of its Economic Action Plan, going forward.

It will be extremely important for the federal government to monitor carefully our industry's performance. The government will be hard pressed to achieve its job growth goals if the housing industry is not operating to its full potential. Not only is housing a barometer of consumer confidence, it is also a strong generator of jobs.

We expect the federal government to take the steps necessary to enable our industry to achieve the level of housing performance reflected in demographic demand—175,000 to 180,000 starts annually.

Maintaining Important Investments

While much of the Budget was focused on continued efforts to get Canada's fiscal house in order, the Government is also set to continue some important investments that have the potential to support new home buyers and those renovating their homes.

First, the Building Canada plan remains in place, with a \$33 billion commitment to support infrastructure development and renewal across the country. This important investment will assist our cities in meeting their infrastructure needs, and hopefully lessen their appetite for having new home buyers foot the bill.

CHBA was also very pleased to see the renewal of the ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes program with \$400 million of new funding to encourage existing homeowners to include energy upgrades in their renovation plans. The renewed availability of ecoENERGY homeowner grants will help our professional renovators sell energy efficiency, and it will also help to combat underground cash operators who will not provide written receipts for their work.

Acknowledging Uncertainty

Minister Flaherty also spoke about the continued uncertainty and fragility of the world economy, and the real risks this poses to Canada. While our nation continues to outperform most other developed economies, we are not immune from the problems afflicting others—whether Greek debt or a U.S. housing and jobs recession that is clearly not over yet.

These external economic factors cast a shadow over Canada's prospects in the years ahead, and could also have a real impact on our industry, if the problems besetting other nations lead to wider economic woes.

At the recent meeting of the CHBA's Economic Research Committee, the economists talked about the risks involved if other nations trigger a new round of fiscal crisis. This clearly remains a major concern of the Finance Minister.

Against this backdrop, the federal government is taking the appropriate economic actions: getting our deficit ▶

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- ▶ under control, having a close look at federal expenditures to find additional savings, and taking prudent steps to support a positive business environment.

If the world economy takes another hit, Canada will be better positioned to respond. If this doesn't happen, we'll be better able to achieve the level of private sector growth and job creation needed in the years ahead.

All told, I believe this budget sets out a prudent and businesslike agenda for Canada.

Get Your SAM Entries Going

At the recent meeting of CHBA's National Marketing Committee the real value of being a CHBA National SAM Award finalist or winner was driven home to me.

In a discussion of next year's National SAM Awards, past participants talked about the tremendous benefits their companies had received. They were able to gain local media coverage and use their SAM Award success to underpin their marketing efforts.

They made it clear that the recognition generated by participation in the National SAM Awards can have direct and significant benefits, and result in greater consumer interest and increased sales.

All of the information on this year's SAM Awards is

now available on the CHBA website at www.chba.ca/sams. As we go into the summer period, this is the ideal time to consider which of your projects would make a great SAM Award entry this year, and to start getting your submission information and images organized.

Starting now also gives you the advantage of arranging your project photos when your new home, renovation or community is looking its best.

The National SAM Award entry deadline is November 4, 2011, and the Awards presentation will be held at the 2012 CHBA National Conference in Mont-Tremblant next March.



This is the ideal time to consider which of your projects would make a great SAM Award entry this year.

CHBA Economic Impacts of the Housing Industry - 2011 Update

The 2011 estimates of the economic impacts of the residential construction industry for your area are now available online in the CHBA members' area. The information shows the tremendous contribution our industry makes to local economies.

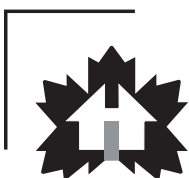
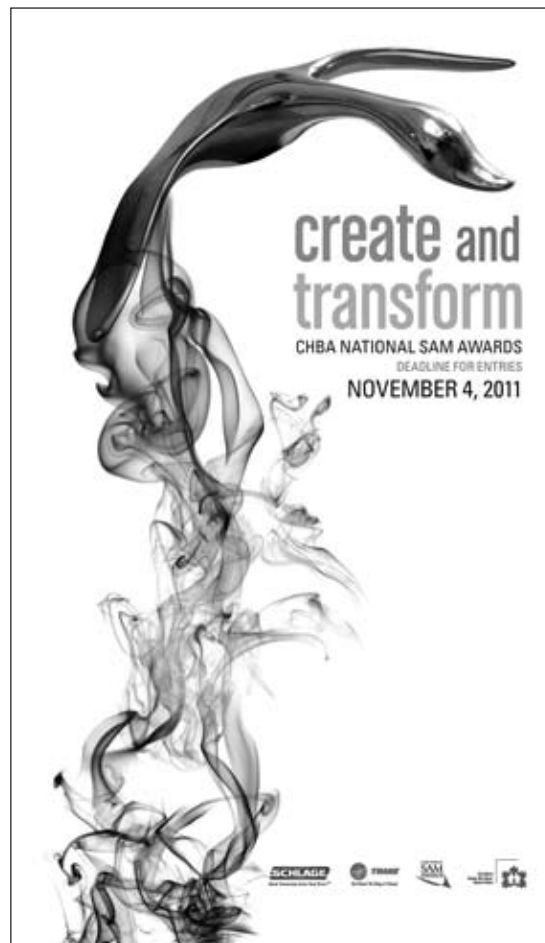
These estimates were prepared by Will Dunning Inc., a consulting firm that specializes in housing market analysis. They cover housing starts, jobs, investment and government revenues from construction of new dwellings of all types, as well as renovation, conversion and repair of existing dwellings and other expenditures relating to new residential construction. www.chba.ca.

Create and Transform in Mont-Tremblant

Create and Transform, the theme of the 2012 CHBA National Conference, will focus on the powerful forces transforming Canadian housing markets, and the compelling business opportunities this presents to CHBA members.

Conference business sessions will feature leading business speakers who will examine the key market, technology and business changes occurring today, and how entrepreneurs can use these opportunities to build new avenues for success.

Our 2012 Conference location is superb. The Fairmont Tremblant Resort, is located at the heart of Mont-Tremblant, a European-style mountain village, and just steps away from the ski lifts and the village centre that combines European ambiance with Québécois hospitality. It will be an exceptional Conference in a unique location. Mark your calendar now for March 16-18, 2012 in Mont-Tremblant. Visit www.chba.ca/conference for more information.



Renovantage Launched in GTA

OAKVILLE — A new home renovation group has been launched in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Called Renovantage, the group is made up of qualified small and mid-sized contractors who specialize in home renovations, from kitchen and bathroom remodelling to complete

GVHBA Reno Council Roundtable

GREATER VANCOUVER — During a state-of-the-industry roundtable discussion initiated at the GVHBA Renovation Council's May 30 meeting, the following remarks were expressed, in no particular order: Underground economy continues to be a concern; clients are asking contractors to absorb the HST; hire-for-cash day labourers congregate in Vancouver each morning; consumer confidence is improving; costs of some building materials and appliances rising; trades prices are holding; customers are interviewing many designers and kitchen providers before deciding and business is improving overall. www.gvhba.org

Resales Generate Reno & Repair Spending

Research done by the Altus Group for the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) finds that the average MLS transaction in Canada generates about \$9,400 in incremental renovation and repair spending within three years of purchase. As the number of real estate actions fell by about 4 per cent in 2010, renovation spending is also expected to soften.

Renovation Spending Expectations

	2010 Spending		Growth in Spending*		
	\$Billions	% Distribution	2010	2011f	2012f
				% Change	
B.C.	7.6	12.6	5.8	-0.3	3.8
Alberta	5.7	9.5	7.2	1.7	4.9
Saskatchewan	1.7	2.8	11.1	0.9	4.2
Manitoba	1.9	3.2	11.5	0.3	3.4
Ontario	23.2	38.6	8.7	-0.5	3.3
Quebec	15.4	25.6	11.6	-0.5	3.4
Atlantic	4.5	7.4	10.5	-0.4	3.0
Canada**	60.1	100.0	9.2	-0.1	3.6

*Adjusted for inflation. ** Includes spending in the Territories
Source: Altus Group Economic Consulting based on Statistics Canada data

Did You Know?

According to the CHBA Pulse Survey done by the Altus Group in early 2011, 54 per cent of CHBA renovator members cite the underground economy as a critical problem. This is a significant increase from 17 per cent in 2009, and 42 per cent in 2010.

Does Your Reno Council Have News to Report?

Why not follow the example set here by GVHBA and tell us what's happening in your neighbourhoods. E-mail Judy Penz Sheluk at editor@work4.ca, and put Reno Council in the subject line.

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OBC 2012 Workshops Available Now through EnerQuality

TORONTO — New homes will be different in 2012. The Ontario Building Code is being revised with more than 500 changes to the existing building code, including higher standards for new home energy performance and construction methods. EnerQuality is proud to offer training covering these energy-related changes and is holding workshops across various Ontario markets to prepare builders for what is coming next. A full schedule of upcoming workshops can be found on

the Training/Events page at www.enerquality.ca or by contacting **Zygmunt Strawczynski**, Training Manager, at 416-447-0077 or zygmunt@enerquality.ca. ☛

British Columbia Institute of Technology Introduces 1st Masters' Degrees in Building Science

BURNABY — In September, the British Columbia Institute of Technology will be introducing Western Canada's first Masters' degrees in building science—a Master of Engineering and a Master of Applied Science in Building Science. The province is providing \$50,000 to support leading-edge research in the two degree programs, focusing on advancing building science practice and responding to future industry trends and emerging technologies. www.bcit.ca. ☛

All Weather Windows Named 2011 Energy Star Manufacturer of the Year

EDMONTON — Congratulations to CHBA member All Weather Windows, recently named the 2011 ENERGY STAR Manufacturer of the Year. The award was presented by the Government of Canada at a gala event in Ottawa to recognize the exceptional work done by the company in producing and promoting energy-efficient products.

This is the second consecutive year All Weather Windows has received this prestigious award, which recognizes Canadian leaders who best address the "Five A's" of market transformation: availability, awareness, accessibility, affordability and acceptability. www.allweatherwindows.com. ☛

Top 10 Kitchen & Bathroom Trends



PHOTO: DIGITAL ARTS

Detailed Ceilings. Design by Jodi Hook, Klaff's, Inc.

HACKETTSTOWN, NJ — The National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) revealed the latest standout design trends culled from the 2011 NKBA Design Competition.

Top 10 Trends included:

1. A commitment to colour: watch for tangerine, mango, and carrot
2. Tactile appeal through textures
3. Glass: mica art glass, glass-tiled backsplash
4. Freestanding and angled tubs
5. Espresso and chocolate in cabinetry
6. Walk-in pantries
7. Detailed ceilings
8. Natural elements: rock, polished stone, crystal formations
9. A tiered approach to proportion: stacked components/varied heights
10. Inlaid flooring ☛

Free Industry-Specific Downloadable PDFs

NRC-IRC Research for 2010: Code Development & Technical Activities

The Canadian Institute for Research in Construction report summarizes NRC-IRC research, code-development and technical activities relevant to builders, and summarizes NRC-IRC's Internet and publications resources for builders. The report covers activities carried out during the 2010 calendar year. www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca.

Use and Installation of Epoxy-coated Reinforcing Bars

Tests demonstrate excellent performance of epoxy-coated reinforcing bars—something of interest for condominium parking garage construction and salt induced corrosion. The Epoxy Interest Group of CRSI has announced the publication of a four-page summary of testing conducted at the University of Kansas relating to new methods of corrosion resistance. www.EpoxyInterestGroup.org.

CMHC's Housing Market Outlook – Second Quarter 2011 Now Online

The Second Quarter 2011 edition of CMHC's Housing Market Outlook - Canada is now available and can be accessed by clicking on the link: www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca. ☛

CALENDAR

Do you have an event you want posted on our new Online Calendar? E-mail your listing to editor@work4.ca

August 25-27

The Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada (HRAI) 43rd Annual Meeting Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON www.hrai.ca

September 15-16

Council of Forest Industries Convention Prince George, BC www.cvent.com

September 22

OHBA Awards of Distinction 2011 Mississauga, ON www.ohbaod.ca

September 15-18

BUILD 2011 Jasper, AB www.chbaalberta.ca/build-2011

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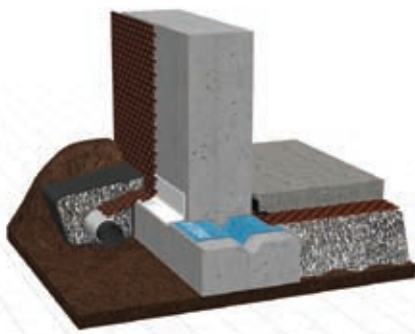
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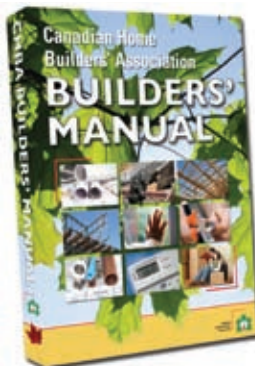
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