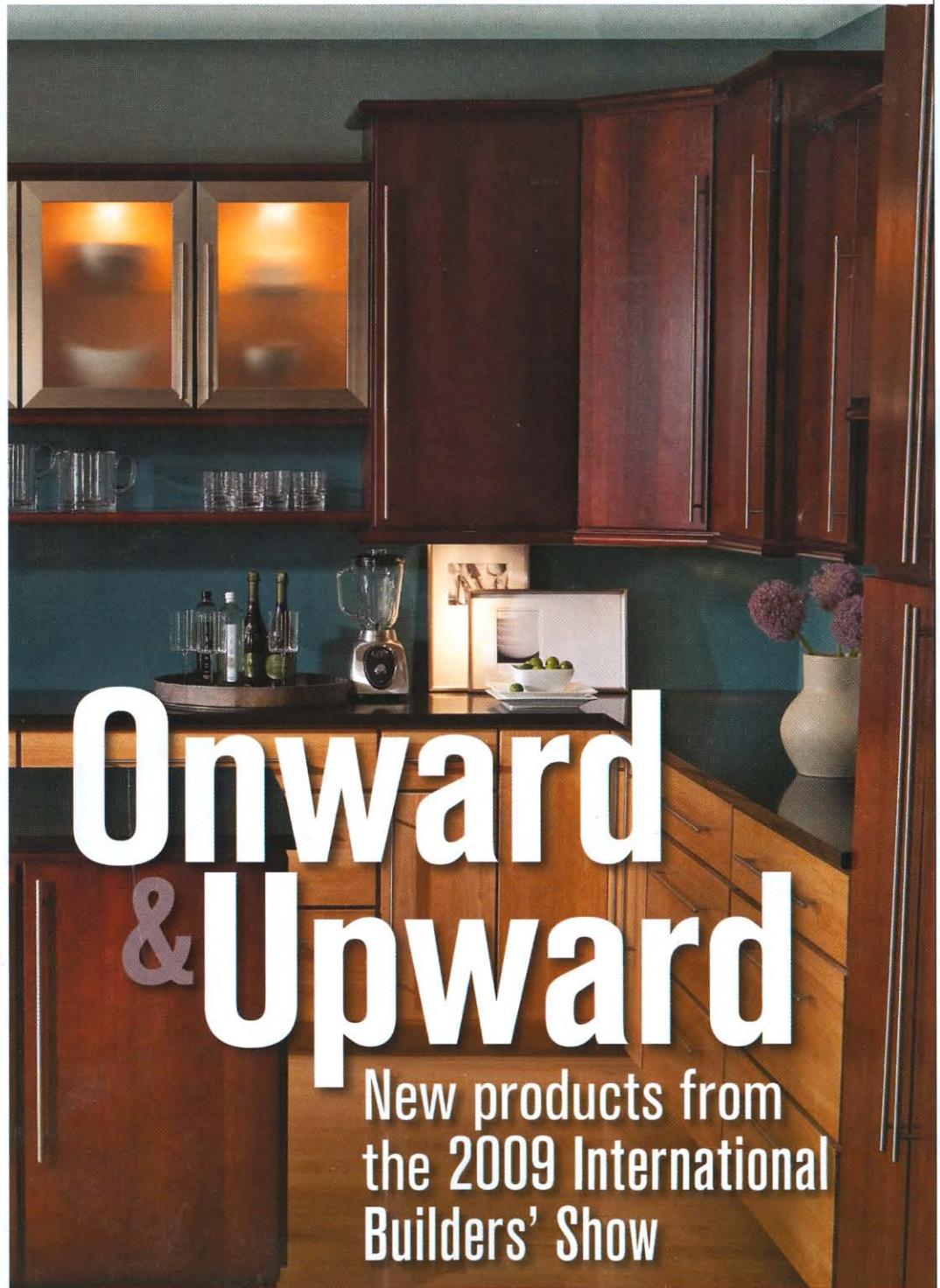
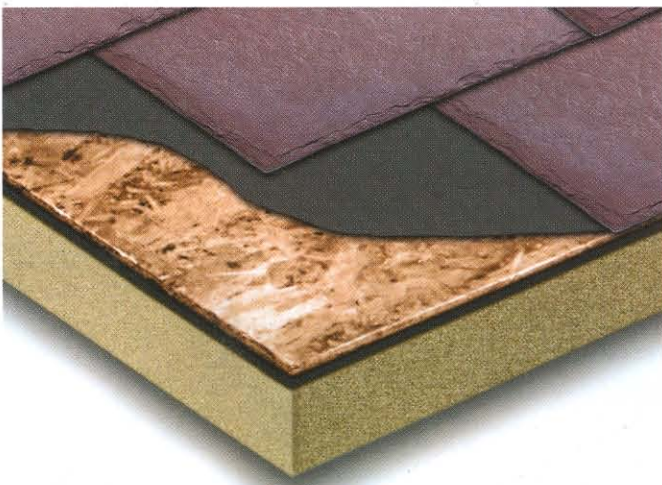


# BUILDING PRODUCTS

hanley wood

WINTER 2009



## Onward & Upward

New products from  
the 2009 International  
Builders' Show

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**PLUS** EXCLUSIVE FEATURE: How Building Product Manufacturers  
Are Weathering the Down Economy





# BUILDING PRODUCTS

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## Reviews

From Hanley Wood, LLC, publisher of BIG BUILDER, BUILDER, CUSTOM HOME, THE JOURNAL OF LIGHT CONSTRUCTION, MULTIFAMILY EXECUTIVE, ProSALES, REMODELING, RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECT, and TOOLS OF THE TRADE.

Winter 2009

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## ONWARD & UPWARD

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**J. Aaron.** Utilizing additives and specific finishing techniques, these handcrafted concrete countertops are 100 percent stain- and acid-proof without the need for topical sealers and without taking away from the material's natural texture, according to the manufacturer. The company says the surfaces are repairable, require no maintenance, and will maintain their original appearance. The 2-inch-thick countertops come in gray, cream, charcoal, and brown, or can be specified in any Benjamin Moore color. 404-298-4200. [www.jaaroncaststone.com](http://www.jaaroncaststone.com). Circle 232.



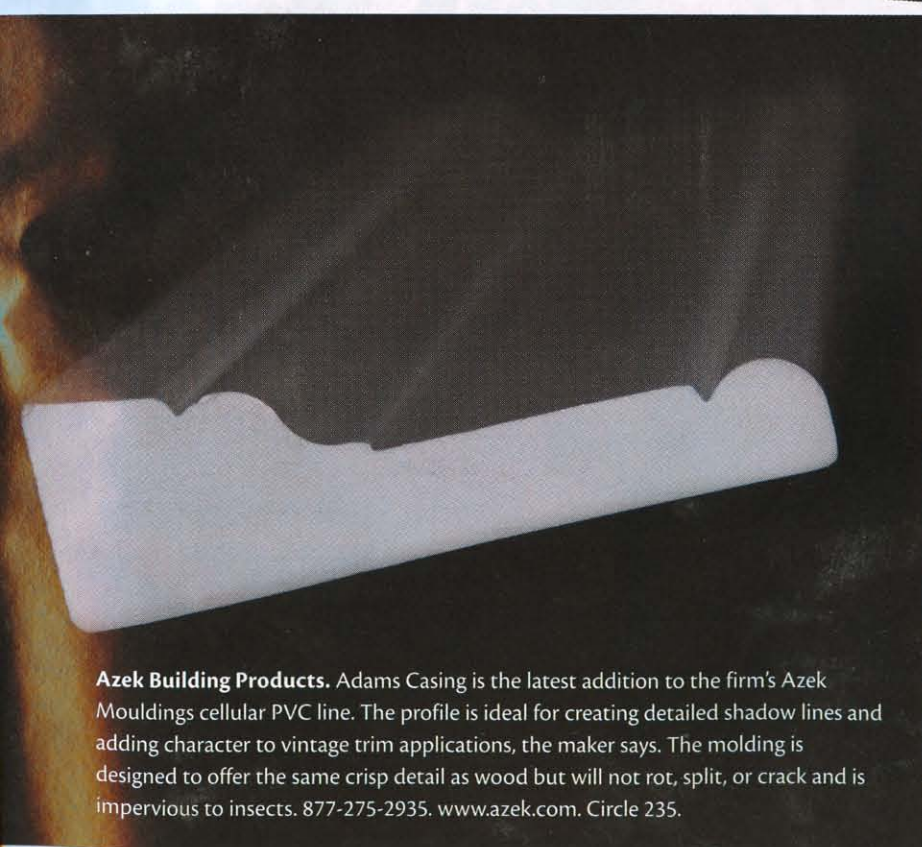
By Katy Tomasulo



**Ridgid.** The R3400 5-inch saw for cutting fiber cement includes the Airguard onboard active dust collection system, which is up to 90 percent efficient in collecting airborne dust particles, says the firm. The tool weighs 7.4 pounds and has a no-load speed of 10,000 rpm and a 1.2-inch depth-of-cut. It features a magnesium upper and lower guard, a 5/8-inch arbor, and up to a 45-degree bevel. It comes with a dust-collection hose, bucket cap filter, and filter clamp. 800-474-3443. [www.ridgid.com](http://www.ridgid.com). Circle 233.



**Villeroy & Boch.** Manufactured with the company's Quaryl material, the Squaro tub offers a high sheen yet is non-porous and slip-resistant; it also conducts heat slowly, the maker says, allowing it to stay warm to the touch. The tub boasts a European-inspired design with pure, angular forms. It comes in two sizes and can be specified with whirlpool and/or airbath jets. 877-505-5350. [www.villeroy-boch.com](http://www.villeroy-boch.com). Circle 234.



**Azek Building Products.** Adams Casing is the latest addition to the firm's Azek Mouldings cellular PVC line. The profile is ideal for creating detailed shadow lines and adding character to vintage trim applications, the maker says. The molding is designed to offer the same crisp detail as wood but will not rot, split, or crack and is impervious to insects. 877-275-2935. [www.azek.com](http://www.azek.com). Circle 235.



**Teragren.** Synergy wide-plank strand bamboo floating flooring features a glueless self-locking system for easier installation. The flooring includes a 4-mm top wearlayer of Optimum 5.5 Moso strand bamboo mounted on a 100 percent bamboo core for stability, and it is durable enough for high-traffic installations, according to the firm. Four colors are offered: wheat, chestnut, java, and new brindle, a blend of natural and caramelized bamboo strands. 800-929-6333. [www.teragren.com](http://www.teragren.com). Circle 236.

PHOTO: JOHN GRANEN;  
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For more new products, visit [www.ebuild.com](http://www.ebuild.com).



MTI Whirlpools. Perfect for oversized showers, Teutonic series sliding-door enclosures are available with one, two, or three panels. The industrial stainless steel rollers allow the largest panel to glide along a track with ease, the maker claims. 800-783-8827. [www.mti-whirlpools.com](http://www.mti-whirlpools.com). Circle 220.



# Sound Surrounds

As more homeowners choose to hit the showers, the faithful glass door is getting a few upgrades.

Remember the 1990s when all the news was about whirlpool tubs? “Now, showers are the new status symbol,” says Rick Seitz of Artisan Estate Homes in Cincinnati. His luxury customers are replacing their master bathtubs with giant economy-sized showers fully loaded with features.

The shower has regained prominence, and some say even stolen the thunder of the tub. And as they’ve grown in size, the shower door has followed suit with new features and designs.

Sheldon Malc, director of showrooms for Davis and Warshaw, a plumbing showroom in metropolitan New York, suggests that luxury hotels and spas have turned consumers’ heads toward a more open and airy showering experience. They want to enjoy the same feeling at home via multi-head showering and luxurious

tile treatments as well as larger, frameless shower doors. And gone is the myth that women bathe and men shower. Research by Basco Shower Doors shows that women are the promoters of the improved shower because this could be their daily rejuvenation and thus, they would make the time to recharge.

#### OPEN RANGE

The shower as spa means larger spaces with multiple sprays and plenty of room. Larger doors are available to fit the spacious enclosures and allow the occupant to feel less confined and enter and exit with ease, all while still containing the steam consumers love. Double-opening French doors, which have begun to replace bypass doors, create a similar experience. Expansive openings also bring more light and air into the formerly cave-like space.

For a truly open feel, many popular designs forego the sealed enclosure entirely. Shower shields or screens, where a piece of glass is mounted to the tub or floor and does not move, provide an entrance to the shower while keeping the water off the floor. This is what bath designers such as Kathleen Donohue CKD, CBD of Eugene, Ore., call a “snail bath.” Lucy Ward, director of sales and marketing for Maax, reports that the door itself is not the center of attention. “It is still about function, an opening to show the latest features of the shower,” she says.

The trend is driving increased demand for frameless units, which provide for more minimalist or contemporary designs while showing off impressive tile or stone treatments or fabulous fittings.

Frameless designs also offer increased functionality.

By Gale Steves