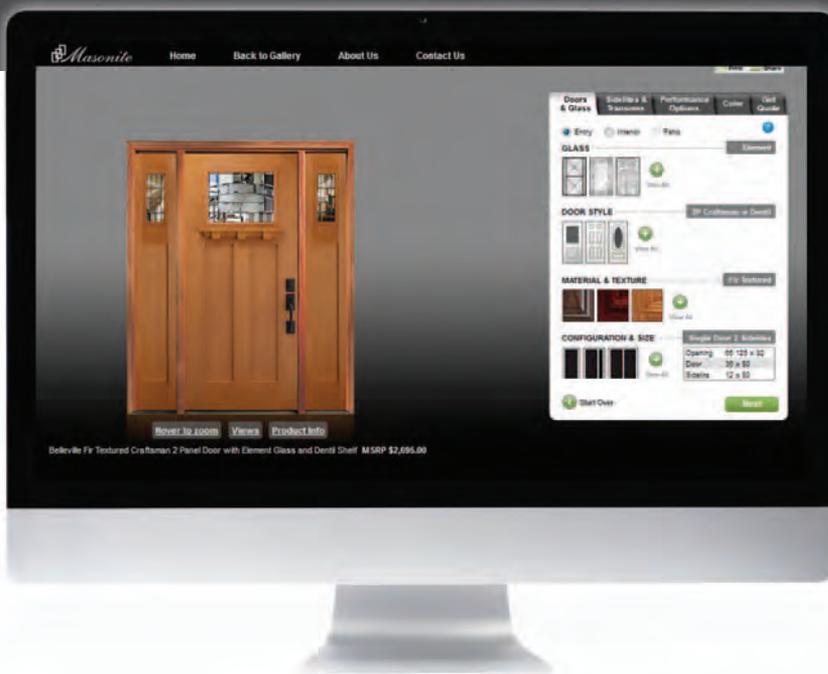


HOT PRODUCTS

EDITORS' CHOICE

2013 INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS' SHOW

Each year, the *LBM Journal* team works the International Builders Show, seeking out products and services that will help you grow your business. The big question, “What’s new?” is useless without the followup, “...and how is that measurably better than what’s currently available?” While there are always a few products that qualify as true “game changers,” the vast majority represent incremental improvements—good products made better. Recurrent themes at this year’s show were “energy-efficiency” and “labor-saving.” In short, leading manufacturers continue investing in products that help you better serve your builder, remodeler and homeowner customers. As usual, space prevents us from printing an exhaustive list; so please consider this a snapshot of offerings from this year’s show. The listings are in no particular order.



MAX Configurator® from Masonite

The new Masonite Xpress (MAX) Configurator is engineered to allow dealers and their customers to virtually design entry, interior or patio doors while keeping an eye on overall cost. According to Masonite, MAX walks users through a step-by-step design process to create entry door designs. Each selection refines and narrows the choices for a complete door package. After each selection, an updated image of the designed door appears and the MSRP reflects the new selection. Masonite says that dealers can also utilize MAX to provide an accurate, instant quote by configuring the door as it will be ordered.

www.masonite.com

HOT PRODUCTS 2013

Black Sand from Fortress Railing Products

Black Sand, the newest finish from Fortress Railing Products, is now available in the Fe26 Iron Railing, Railing Baluster and FortressAccents Post Caps & LED Lighting product lines. Its DuPont® premium textured matte black finish protects against scratches, smudges, dust and dirt. Fortress says it is the ultimate in low maintenance living, allowing homeowners to spend more time relaxing. www.fortressrailing.com



Sienna Lifetime Designer Shingles from GAF

GAF's Sienna Lifetime Designer Shingles introduce a distinctive diamond-shaped design with artisan-crafted shapes and a dimensional look. According to GAF, their rich appearance and clean lines add distinction to any home—at a fraction of the cost of traditional slate or wood shakes. Designed to offer "Old World" elegance, Sienna Shingles are available in four custom colors. As with all options in the Lifetime Designer Shingles Value Collection, GAF describes Sienna as a luxurious and affordable alternative to standard architectural shingles. www.gaf.com



The Super Anchor MAX X-Line from USP

As OSHA steps up enforcement of the fall protection rules on residential job sites, the question becomes how to make compliance easy and effective. USP Structural Connectors has partnered with Super Anchor to bring a solution to market designed to meet both requirements. Many contractors worry about the addition of another trip hazard in the framing environment—in addition to the air hose for a pneumatic nailer, they now have the rope lifeline as well. By incorporating the air hose into the lifeline, the patented MAX X-Line from Super Anchor effectively minimizes the trip hazard. The lifeline can be clipped into a USP permanent, gasketed anchor that can be installed by attaching it to the structure's framing, 800.328.5934



Tongue-and-Groove Trimboard from Versatex®

Versatex has expanded its selection of PVC tongue-and-groove (T&G) products by including a new WP4 profile, Versatex Trimboard. Featuring a V-groove center match, the company says the 3/4-inch x 5 7/16-inch profile is engineered to meet the needs of builders and architects seeking a durable, workable replacement for the conventional pine WP4.

The WP4's versatility makes it a viable option for wainscoting, soffits and porch ceilings. According to Versatex, today's builders increasingly use it in such applications as interior and exterior paneling, fencing, porch

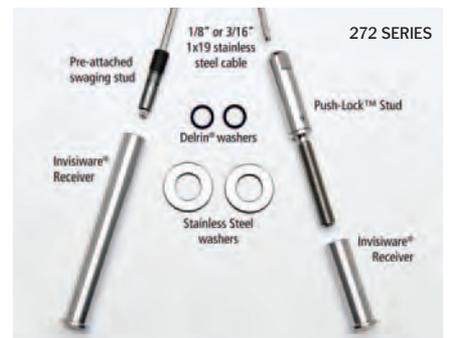


skirting, hot tub enclosures and shed doors. The profile is sold in 18-foot lengths, fit for remodeling projects as well as new construction. Like all Versatex PVC products, it is engineered to be impervious to moisture and insect damage. www.versatex.com

Ultra-tec's Double-Tensioner Cable Railing Kits

Double-tensioner cable railing kits are now available by Ultra-tec to complement the standard tensioning device/swageless stop-end fitting kits. The kits allow the user to install railing around two corners up to 50' long—something the company says can't be done with a single tensioner—because it cannot provide the take-up necessary to properly tension the cable.

While more expensive than their single tensioner siblings, Ultra-tec says you will accomplish in one run what previously took two, and one kit is always less expensive



than two! Three different kit configurations are available—meaning whatever your post layout, there's a kit for the job.

www.thecableconnection.com/ultra-tec.html