

*NEB's pick
of curious,
interesting
and useful
products.*

Enhanced Overhead

by Kate O'Brien



Solid wood stringer system for suspended ceilings gives the look of custom carpentry without the cost. The Interlock Ceiling System can support several ceiling alternatives, including the suspended lighting pictured above. Other applications include wood panel ceilings and acoustical panel ceilings. According to its manufacturer, it installs as easily as a metal frame ceiling, with fewer wire supports than conventional metal ceilings. The company also manufactures the Interlock Lighting Fixture, a completely self-contained unit available in several different sizes. For more information contact Interlock Concepts, 9594 Port Sheldon Rd., Zeeland, MI 49464; 616/875-8181.

The Butt End



Flooring constructed from end-grain wood blocks promise durability. Wood Blocks come in several styles. Lug-type, bevel corner, and grooved, are recommended for use in industrial applications and are pressure-treated with creosote. Simple rectangular blocks are designed for natural finish installations and all non-tracking industrial specifications, in light industry, commercial, and residential applications. Available from Kaswell & Co., P.O. Box 549, Framingham, MA 01701; 617/879-1120.

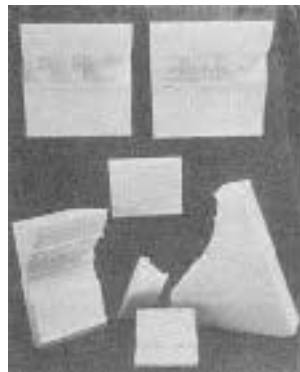
Pop Top



New ceiling system allows easy access to plenum areas by enabling the panels to be popped out rather

than pushed upward. This is an advantage when the plenum is completely occupied by electrical power, communications cable and HVAC systems. Pictured above, the Celebration panels form a continuous interlock with the Don Brand Fineline suspension ceiling grid. A four-sided locking bead on each panel snaps into a notch fabricated into the Main Tees and Cross Tees which are connected together to form 2-foot-square modules. For more information about this and other ceiling configurations, contact Integrated Ceilings Inc., 1601 Iowa Ave., Riverside, CA 92507; 714/784-5800.

Foam Flexibility



Custom architectural shapes that look like cut stone or cast masonry but are actually foam, give architects, builders, and developers the freedom to design in the look of traditional architecture without the traditional cost. Custom shapes may be attached to any substrate and requires no special equipment. For more information, contact Foam Technology, 50 Aleppo St., Providence, RI 02909; 401/272-1710.



Space-Age Acoustics

Looks like conventional acoustical ceiling tile, but it isn't. Mortile is washable, moisture and dust resistant, and can, according to its manufacturers, increase the existing ceiling's acoustical value by as much as 20 percent. In addition, because it contains a new low-flame-spread, low-smoke-generating polymer fresh from Du Pont Canada's test tubes, it promises high fire retardancy, and no toxicity when burned in air. Finally, you can install it directly over the old tiles—making an upgrade simple. Several styles and patterns are available. Represented by ProCoat Products, Inc., P.O. Box 587, Stoughton, MA 02072; 617/341-2250.

Barrier-Free Wiring



Plastic grommets eliminate hassles when you're trying to run cords through work surfaces and other panels. The grommet eliminates friction on the cord, and enhances the appearance of the access holes made necessary by the increasing trend towards office systems furniture. Comes in several sizes, including some especially designed to accommodate computer and peripheral equipment plugs. All are ABS plastic, and come in several standard colors—as well as custom colors. The company also makes Wire Manager Systems, used to neatly channel cords. Contact Doug Mockett & Company, P.O. Box 3333, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266; 213/318-2491.

Unbreakable Mirror



Hang it, cut it, bend it, but don't try to break it. It won't. A-Look is a reflective material from Mitsubishi Chemical Industries which offers the look of conventional mirrors with none of the disadvantages. Available in a variety of finishes and patterns, the product can be used on ceilings, walls, columns, furniture, displays, fascias, and for trims and accents. A-Look Ex goes one step further: It can be used on exteriors, and for indoor use where humidity is high. For information contact Mitsubishi, 100 Wade Ave, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; 201/757-6900.

Strip Lighting



Limited only by your imagination, Flexicon comes in two styles: 9mm (7/16 inch) flexible round tubing and 8mm x 10mm (3/8 x 1/2 inch) rigid rectangular tubing. Either style is available with bulb centers of 3 or 6 inches, and are designed to operate on either 12-volt or 110-volt circuits. The lighting costs 30 to 70 percent less than similar products, according to the manufacturer. Other tube styles and bulb spacings can be special ordered. Contact Envisage, P.O. Box 665, Sierra Madra, CA 91024; 818/355-1431.