

Bifolding Exterior Doors

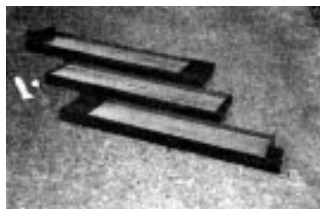
by Sal Alfano



If you think a French door is the only way to achieve large, clear-span door openings, think again. The *Opening Glass Wall* uses Douglas fir doors with full-height insulated glazing. Three to six doors can be used in a variety of configurations, including, for example, a six-panel setup that combines as many as five bifolding doors with a French door function. The system works with unobstructed openings as large as 16 feet 5 inches, and is shipped as a knock-down unit. It is preassembled at the factory, so all hardware mountings are pre-drilled. The key to the system is the bifolding hardware, which supports the weight of the doors. It is

adjustable in three directions to allow for minor shifting and deflection in the structure. A guide track keeps the doors aligned at the bottom, and the sill incorporates the Schlegel Hydrosill, a "contain-and-drain" threshold that captures water in the sill and drains it through weep holes. Compression gaskets form a tight weatherseal and sound barrier, and a four-point locking system keeps the doors secure. A motorized, overhead insect screen is available as an option to provide solar shading. For more information, contact Nana Windows & Doors, 707 Redwood Highway, Mill Valley, CA 94941; 800/873-5673.

Seamless Sill Pan



Leakage around door and window sills can be virtually eliminated, according to the manufacturer of *Jamsill Guard*, a custom-sized, seamless ABS plastic pan flashing. A complete pan assembly includes left- and right-hand molded corner sections which are glued together on site using a clear PVC cement and applicator. For rough openings over 3 feet wide, straight extrusions up to 12 feet long each can be glued between the end pieces. An aluminum strip bonded to the surface prevents metal door thresh-

olds from puncturing the plastic. The flashing pans come in three sizes for different stud widths, and can be ordered directly from Jamsill, P.O. Box 485, Talent, OR 97540; 800/526-7455.

Wireless Fire Glass



Fire-rated glass is just now finding its way into residential building

codes, but has long been a part of commercial construction. Until recently, wire glass was the only product acceptable in fire-rated locations. A wireless, clear, ceramic glass called *FireLite* is about to change all that. Not only is it much nicer to look at and through, but according to the distributor, it outperforms wire glass. The ceramic glass is in the same family as glass used in woodstove doors and flush-surface range tops. Because it is "zero-expansive," ceramic glass is virtually impervious to heat and thermal shock. UL and Warnock Hersey International have rated it for 60 minutes for sizes up to 1,296 square inches, but sizes up to 36x96 inches are available and are being tested. The glass is $\frac{3}{16}$ inch thick and will fit standard fire-rated frames. It can be cut by ordinary means, and glazed with silicone caulk, which is supplied with every order. The three grades — Standard, Patterned, and Premium — are two to four times more expensive than wire glass, but their superior performance and appearance may be worth the money. For more information, contact Technical Glass Products, 2425 Carillon Point, Kirkland, WA 98033; 800/426-0279.

Sunspace Fan



The *Wesper 2* is a through-the-wall fan that transfers warm air directly from a sunspace to an adjacent part of the house. The thermostat is adjustable between 40° and 100°F. The high limit triggers a motorized shade, which rolls up and switches on the fan. When the temperature reaches the lower limit, the shade closes and shuts the fan motor off. A simple mechanism compresses the shade to seal it against the backdraft of warm or cold air. A second, shade-only unit, called the *Wesper 2RS*, can be controlled by the first to provide an automated replacement-air opening.

Controls are on the front panel, but removable plastic trim grilles on both sides allow full access to working parts. The two-speed fan motor can be hard-

wired or plugged into a standard 120-volt receptacle. At low speed, it draws 300 cfm and generates less noise than a refrigerator; it draws 500 cfm at the higher setting. The *Wesper 2* retails for about \$399. For more information, contact Weather Energy Systems, P.O. Box 459, 15 Kendrick Road, W. Wareham, MA 02576; 508/295-8105.

Wider Velux Trim



Velux has redesigned the frame of its roof windows and skylights to include a notch in the trim groove that will accept $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch wallboard. Formerly, only $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch would fit without cutting. The larger groove accepts fire-resistant drywall in most applications, and is beveled to allow for a splayed window well. Contact Velux-America at P.O. Box 50001, Greenwood, SC 29648; 803/223-3149.

White Thermostats



If you're having trouble finding a thermostat to match all of the white switches, outlets, and coverplates in the houses you're building, don't give up hope. Honeywell has announced the addition of a new color — "premier white" — to their line of thermostats and accessories. For more information, contact Honeywell, Residential and Building Controls, 1985 Douglas Drive N., Golden Valley, MN 55422; 612/542-7262. ■