

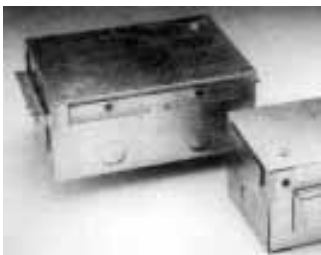
Custom Tilt-and-Swing

by Sal Alfano



Almost everything about the windows and doors built by *Architectural Openings* is unique. All of the structural stock is made out of laminated hardwood (including mahogany, hemlock, cherry, and oak) assembled with waterproof glue to a thickness of 2¹¹/₁₆ inches. A single handle operates hardware that allows both windows and doors to either tilt in from the top or swing open from the side, and the multipoint locking system provides security even in the tilt position. On sliders, the handle raises the door onto wheels for easy opening and lowers it again for a tight fit when closed. The hinges are adjustable in three dimensions, and the neoprene weatherstripping gasket surrounding all sashes can be removed for cleaning and painting. The company also offers a wide range of energy-efficient glass, including Southwall's Superglass system, which has an insulating value of R-8. And, because everything they build is custom designed, *Architectural Openings* can accommodate openings of just about any size and shape. Their bi-folding exterior door system, for example, can provide an unobstructed opening of more than 20 feet. For more information, contact *Architectural Openings*, 6 Vernon St., Somerville, MA 02143; 617/776-9223.

Floor Receptacle Box



Floor receptacles are convenient, but it's always troublesome to

anchor the box. Steel City's new *stamped steel floor box* should make the job easier because it's specifically designed for use with wooden floors. Each box comes with two sets of mounting brackets, one for retrofits, which suspends the box from the finish surface, and one for new work, which mounts to the subfloor and is adjustable for easy leveling. Both the single and double-gang models accept the manufacturer's rectangular brass cover plates for power and communications devices. For more information, contact Thomas & Betts Electrical Components Group, 1555 Lynnfield Rd., Memphis, TN 38119; 800/888-0211.

One-Ply Fire Wall



Two-hour fire-rated wall assemblies that used to require a double layer of gypsum wallboard can now be built using a single layer of 3/4-inch-thick *Ultracode Core*. Installing just one layer saves on labor and uses fewer fasteners and less adhesive. The manufacturer claims that the extra thickness also helps to stiffen half-height walls. But you need more muscle because the Sheetrock-brand gypsum panels weigh 2.8 lbs./sq.ft. That means a 4x8 sheet weighs nearly 90 pounds, and the 9-foot, 10-foot, and 12-foot panels are even heavier. *Ultracode* costs about 10¢ more per square foot than standard 5/8-inch panels. For more information, contact U.S. Gypsum Company, P.O. Box 6721, Chicago, IL 60680; 800/873-8740.

One-Way Drains



When the trap in a floor drain dries out, insects, odors, airborne mold, and cold air can freely enter the house. *Dranjer Sump and Floor Seals* are designed to let water out and keep everything else from coming in. Several different models are available to accommodate a variety of drain types and sizes. All use a built-in trap with a weighted float that lifts under the pressure of draining water, but drops back into place to seal the trap when the water stops flowing. Models made for new construction are equipped with retaining rings that can be set into a concrete floor. Sump models have a rigid flange that can be bolted to the underside of a sealed sump cover or catch basin drain, and retrofit models use a large rubber flange that fits under the strainer plate of existing drains. The new F-series models fit a 2-inch drain line and are specifically designed to prevent the short-circuiting of ventilation systems that use negative pressure under the slab to collect and dispose of radon gas. The *Dranjer* seals are made of ABS and retail for about \$25. For more information, contact *Dranjer*, 1441 Pembina Hwy., Winnipeg, MB R3T 2C4, Canada; 204/474-0451.

Radio-Wave Moisture Meter

A new non-destructive moisture meter called the *Aquant* uses high frequency radio waves to detect moisture in a variety of materials. The hand-held detector is about the size of a TV remote control. When the tip is pressed against the surface of the material being tested, the *Aquant* measures

impedance and displays the results on an LED scale. According to the manufacturer, the *Aquant* isn't



fooled by low levels of humidity and ignores heavy surface moisture like condensation and rain water. However, a clip-on device allows you to measure surface moisture as well. The *Aquant* runs on two 9-volt batteries and costs about \$195. For more information, contact Protimeter, P.O. Box 450, Danvers, MA 01923; 800/321-4878.

Color-Matched Caulk



A new water-based silicone caulk called *Trade Mate* makes it easier to hide caulk joints in finish materials because it comes in 70 standard colors. Available in 4-ounce squeeze tubes and 10 1/2-ounce cartridges, *Trade Mate* caulk cures to 100% silicone without the unpleasant odor associated with other silicone caulks. The manufacturer supplies extensive color-matching guides for popular brand-name plastic laminates and ceramic tile, but if you need a special color, the company can whip up a custom mix on short notice. To find a distributor near you, contact Kampel Enterprises, 8930 Carlisle Rd., Wellsville, PA 17365; 717/432-9688. ■