

Products

by Pete Young

Room-by-Room Hydronic Zoning

Zoning individual rooms for hot water or low-pressure steam heating is inexpensive and easy using *automatic room temperature control valves*. The solid brass, straight, angle, and horizontal-angle valve bodies accommodate radiators and baseboard units, and are available for both NPT and sweat connections in sizes ranging from 1/2 inch to 1 1/4 inches. The standard self-contained valves can be complemented with remote



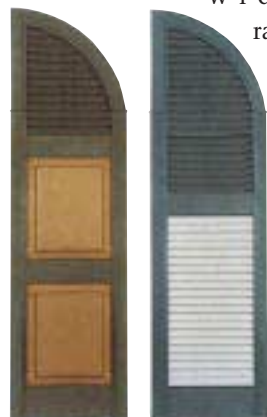
sensing and control options. The manufacturer claims that its thermostatic controls will maintain a constant temperature to within 1°F. The valves have built-in freeze

protection, which activates whenever room temperatures fall below 40°F, and a tamper-free temperature limiting or locking feature, which is set with a specially-shaped tool instead of universally accessible pins. Contractor prices start at about \$30; the recalibration tool costs 85¢.

Contact: ISTEC Corporation, 415 Hope Ave., Roselle, NJ 07203; 908/241-8880; www.istec-corp.com.

Mix-and-Match Shutters

The *All-Size Custom Shutter Program* offers five styles of shutters — louvered, lasalle, raised panel, classic panel, and batten. Any two styles can be combined for a custom look — a half-raised panel and half-louvered shutter, for example. Six shutter widths



range from 7 to 18 inches; lengths, from 23 to 144 inches in 1/2-inch increments. All shutters are made of injection-molded polypropylene plastic and come complete with hardware, including color-matched screws. The shutters are available through lumberyards; retail prices range from \$20 to \$100, depending on features.

Contact: Design House, Inc., 11691 River Lane, Germantown, WI 53022; 800/558-1919; dhi@exepc.com.

Designer Knee Pads

Knees been hurting lately? The *Proflex* line of heavy-duty knee pads comes in eight styles, priced from \$8.75 to \$19.95 a pair. The well-padded knee protectors are made in several sizes, with soft- or hard-cap wear surfaces and either one or two adjustable elastic straps. Special models are available for damp or wet areas, and for abrasion resistance, non-marring performance, or slip resistance.

Contact: Ergodyne, 1410 Energy Park Drive, Suite One, Saint Paul, MN 55108; 800/225-8238; www.ergodyne.com.



Redesigned Windows

Loewen Windows recently re-engineered its *wood Lawning and casement windows* both in appearance and construction. The new windows have a traditional stile-and-rail look, which better matches the company's other products. In addition to a slightly larger glass area, the metal clad windows have a new triple-seal glazing system and sturdier overlap joints instead of mitered joints. New concealed single- and multi-point hardware is optional. The windows are built with West Coast Douglas fir.

Contact: Loewen Windows, 1228 American Way, Libertyville, IL 60048; 800/245-2295; www.loewen.com.



Miterless Molding Corners

If you're hoping to speed up the installation of ceiling molding on an upcoming finish job, you may want to try the *Architectural Accents* series of inside and outside corner pieces. Designed in several sizes that can be butt-joined to various molding profiles, the urethane corner pieces can be worked with conventional tools and are glued in place using a compatible adhesive, then nailed or screwed. Divider blocks are also available to create visual breaks along straight ceiling sections. The corner pieces come in preprimed white (\$10 each) and stainable wood grain (\$11.60 each); a 10-ounce cartridge of adhesive retails for \$9.15.

Contact: Style-Mark, Inc., 960 West Barre Road, Archbold, OH 43502; 800/446-3040; www.style-mark.com.



Emergency Generator Panel

In the event of a power outage, homes equipped with a *Square D Generator Panel* can be manually switched to an emergency generator circuit breaker. A mechanical interlock ensures that only the main panel breaker or the emergency breaker is in use at any given time, preventing a backflow hazard to line workers. The generator panels are available in 30- and 60-amp configurations at a list price of \$357. To avoid confusion during inspection, the panels have prominent labels displaying the UL Listing and the panel's suitability as a manual transfer switch.



Contact: Square D Company, 1415 South Roselle Road, Palatine, IL 60067-7399; 800/392-8781; www.squared.com.

Space-Age Coating

Spinning off from NASA research, *Ginsite* is a new coating product which has potential uses in light construction. The manufacturer claims that the material adheres to everything except plastic and is both waterproof and fireproof. Preliminary tests by the manufacturer show it to be very strong as well: Wall sections insulated with sprayed foam between studs and sheathed only with Ginsite withstood far greater shear forces than conventionally sheathed walls. The formula — which is a mixture of volcanic ash, resin, fire retardant, a UV protective agent, and a curing agent — is shipped as two liquids which must be mixed on the job site. Custom colors can be mixed at the factory or by adding latex paint pigment on the job. Ginsite is sold in two different viscosities for vertical and horizontal applications, and can be applied in smooth or rough textures by spray, trowel, or roller. (The samples we received at JLC all had a shiny quality to their finish, regardless of texture.) Applied in a 1/8-inch-thick layer, each gallon covers about 25 square feet; cleanup with hot water must be completed within three hours. Ginsite costs about \$30 per gallon and is being sold through a small number of distributors.

Contact: Ginsite Materials, Inc., 6781 West Sunrise Blvd., Plantation, FL 33313; 954/321-9616; www.ginsite.com.

