

# PRODUCTS

by Scott Gibson

## Winding Down

Spiral stairs for outdoor spaces

Available in standard diameters from 3 1/2 feet to 6 feet in hot-dipped galvanized steel or powder-coated aluminum, stairs from SalterSpiralStair can be manufactured to any height at the company's Collegeville, Pa., plant.

Galvanized stairs—fabricated from 12-gauge steel—are shipped with the material's characteristic gray color but can be painted on site. Powder-coated-aluminum stairs are available in hundreds of stock colors as well as in standard white and black. In either material, treads come grated for drainage or diamond-plated for slip-resistance. The stairs have a lifetime warranty on the fabrication and a 5-year warranty on the finishes.

Lead time runs from about 5 weeks in slower seasons to 8 weeks during peak spring and summer construction seasons. An 8-foot galvanized stair with a 3 1/2-foot diameter costs \$1,400; in powder-coated aluminum, it would cost about \$4,000.

■ **SalterSpiralStair**, 866.368.8280, [salterspiralstair.com](http://salterspiralstair.com)



## Lateral Load Connection

Attaches to the exterior of the house



Deck-Con's Deck to House Connection Kit was designed to allow builders to install two 1,500-pound-rated connections between a deck ledger and house framing—without going inside the house. It can be used with dimensional-lumber house joists that run perpendicular to the ledger.

The kit would be particularly useful where interior framing was inaccessible—for example, above a drywalled ceiling, buried in a layer of spray foam insulation, or behind HVAC ducts. To attach the connector, the builder starts by locating the center of an inside floor joist on the outside of the rim joist and attaching a metal plate to the center line with two lag screws. Once a 1/2-inch threaded rod is attached to the plate, the ledger can be attached to the house. The connection is completed with a metal L-plate that's bolted to a deck joist and attached to the threaded rod.

Deck-Con says that the connectors haven't been subjected to third-party testing, but that they were designed by a design professional and engineering reports are available.

A kit with two connectors costs about \$40 and can be ordered online. The website also has a video installation guide.

■ **Deck-Con**, 314.566.1008, [deck-con.com](http://deck-con.com)

## Hardscape Lighting

Low-voltage illumination for existing masonry

The new Hardscape Retrofit Lighting System from I-Lighting can be added to masonry retaining walls, pillars, and other features without tearing out existing work to install fixtures and conventional wiring.

LEDs are encased in a waterproof, UL-listed 5-millimeter polycarbonate sleeve, which the installer simply adheres to a masonry surface using 3M Extreme Hold tape. After attaching the light strips, the installer makes a shallow trough in the mortar between masonry units and buries the 22-gauge supply wire under a thin layer of new mortar. Strips connect to the power source with the company's no-splice plug system.

The LEDs have a service life of 12 years of around-the-clock operation. They're manufactured in the company's Maryland facility in 18-inch lengths that can be cut into 3-inch pieces and inserted into the polycarbonate housing at the desired spacing. The company's CEO, Scott Holland, says the strips use so little electricity—1.6 watts per foot—



that an 80-foot strip would show no dimming end to end from a power drop. One foot of clear white lighting produces 282 lumens.

A 5-foot kit costs about \$63. The LED drivers that power the strips cost from \$103 to \$310, depending on wattage. At no additional cost, the company will specify the lighting, typically within 48 hours of receiving the plans.

■ **I-Lighting**, 888.305.4232, [i-lightingonline.co](http://i-lightingonline.co)

## Patio Doors

Connecting spaces

In either the lift-and-slide or the bi-fold version, Marvin's Scenic Doors open to offer panoramic views and unfettered travel between indoor and outdoor living areas.

The bi-fold doors, which may have from two to eight panels, move on an extruded aluminum track in openings as wide as 21 feet and as tall as 8 feet. A standard French door panel sports an 8 1/8-inch bottom rail, but panels also may be had with a 4 3/4-inch bottom rail to accommodate a larger glass size. Exteriors are available in wood—including pine, vertical-grain Douglas fir, mahogany, and primed pine—and aluminum-clad surfaces in one of 19 colors. Glazing options include single glazing with a removable energy panel, insulating glass, and a variety of tinted and textured glass.

Lift-and-slide doors are available for openings as wide as 48 feet and can be configured either as pocket doors, which slide into the wall and out of sight when opened, or as



stacked panels that slide and stack within the door frame. The panels are 2 3/4 inches thick and move on a track that stands 3/16 inch above the finished floor height. They're available with a variety of finishes; glazing options are similar to those for the bi-fold door series. Prices vary.

■ **Marvin**, 888.537.7828, [marvin.com](http://marvin.com) ♦

*Scott Gibson is a writer in East Waterboro, Maine.*