

by VINCENT SALANDRO

### 1. Vacuum Insulating Glass

Kolbe Windows & Doors has added vacuum insulating glass (VIG) options from LuxWall to its Ultra Series and VistaLux WD Line windows and doors. According to the manufacturer, a small, virtually airless vacuum space between the panes of glass improves thermal insulation, comfort, and energy efficiency. The new glass options include two panes with one low-E coating and three panes with two low-E coatings. *kolbewindows.com*

### 2. Post-Frame Purlin Splice Connector

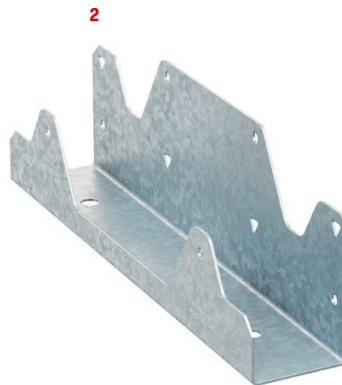
Simpson Strong-Tie says its PFPS24 purlin splice connector for post-frame construction keeps purlins in line along the entire length of a trussed gable roof and eliminates the need to offset and overlap members. The PFPS24 is available with minimum and maximum fastener options, depending on load requirements, for value engineering. Contractors can also reduce material costs with this connector because they can use shorter, less expensive purlin stock. *strongtie.com*

### 3. Moisture-Managing Stucco Lath

Sure Cavity Stucco Lath from MTI combines a rainscreen with fire-rated stucco lath to help manage moisture, meet fire codes in International Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) zones, and save on labor. An integrated layer of perforated and corrugated polyester material creates a  $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch drainage gap while a vapor-permeable lath supports ventilation. MTI recommends lapping the sheets shingle-style at horizontal seams, using the integral 2-inch skirt. The product weighs less than metal lath and won't rust, according to the manufacturer, and is ideal for multistory residential and commercial applications. *mtidry.com*

### 4. Terra Cotta Façade

Extruded from traditional clay and fired at extreme temperatures, SK1N cladding from GlenGery provides a terra cotta aesthetic to exteriors. Suited for vertical applications, the tiles install shingle-style with staggered seams on horizontal furring over a weather-resistant membrane. Preformed holes in the tiles help speed installation. According to the manufacturer, an integrated rear-ventilated rainscreen improves thermal performance and air circulation. *glengery.com*



## Products



### 5. Aluminum Entry Doors

Therma-Tru's Veris Modern Grain entryway door combines a thermally broken aluminum frame with walnut-grained fiberglass panels and glass. The doors are available in heights up to 10 feet and in pivot or hinged configurations. Glass options include low-E clear glass, gray-tinted "turtle" glass to protect turtle-nesting areas from interior light, and "satin" privacy glass. In addition, builders can choose from four handleset styles in five finishes. [thermatru.com](http://thermatru.com)



### 6. All-Climate Heat Pump

The AirEase Pro Series A7CP21V All-Climate Heat Pump achieves ratings of up to 21 SEER2 and 10HSPF2 even when outdoor temperatures are as low as 5°F, according to the manufacturer. The heat pump's variable-speed compressor helps ensure consistent, energy-efficient heating, cooling, and humidity control while operating at quiet sound levels. Pair the heat pump with a Comfort Sync A3 thermostat to customize a home's comfort room by room. [airease.com](http://airease.com)

### 7. Efficient Energy Recovery Ventilator

Energy recovery ventilators (ERVs) exchange stale indoor air with filtered air while recovering energy from outgoing air and managing indoor air pressure. Panasonic says its Intelli-Balance Elite ERVs, designed for temperate climates, can operate in temperatures as low as 14°F, at which point they enter a stand-by mode. Designed for cold climates, Elite Plus+ units can function down to -22°F, according to the company, before going into one of two frost-protection modes (recirculation or exhaust only). Models in both lines have a speed selector for managing airflow and indoor air pressure. And, according to the manufacturer, units have a membrane core that can reduce inbound moisture loads by up to 40% in humid climates. [na.panasonic.com/us](http://na.panasonic.com/us)



### 8. Interior Fire-Rated Plywood

Garnica's Fireshield plywood is fire-rated for interior construction, carrying the highest fire performance ratings for wood products, ASTM E-84 Class A. According to the manufacturer, the fire-retardant treatment penetrates the entire panel, even after sanding or machining, ensuring low carbonization and fire stability. Garnica's Fireshield is ideal for cabinetry, built-in furniture, and ceiling applications. [garnica.one](http://garnica.one)



### 9. Expansive Glass Wall

The AX650 Moving Glass Wall from Milgard Windows and Doors is available in pocket glass, stacking glass, and bi-fold glass door configurations in heights up to 10 feet and panel widths up to 5 feet. The AX650 offers dual glazing for improved energy efficiency and is available in a Title 24 Energy Package to comply with California's energy standards. Other options include four frame finishes and flush or contemporary hardware styles. [milgard.com](http://milgard.com)



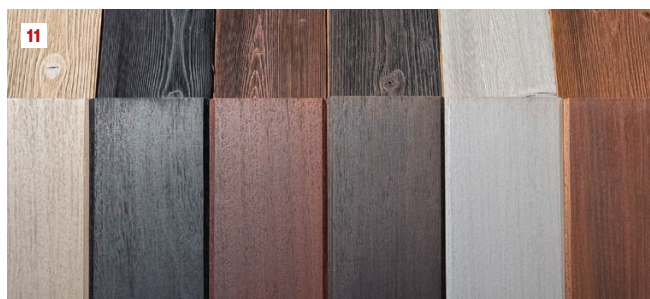
### 10. Waterproof Backerboard

USG Fiberock AquaSmart Tile Backerboard is a gypsum fiber panel with a uniform, waterproof composition throughout. It was able to withstand hydrostatic pressure testing with no visible penetration over 48 hours, according to the manufacturer. With a 0.42-inch thickness, the backerboard is compatible with modern substrates. The manufacturer says that it weighs less than traditional backerboard and has a Class A fire rating. Recommended applications include under tile, stone, vinyl, hardwood flooring, laminate flooring, carpeting, and countertops. When used for walls, it can be painted. [usg.com](http://usg.com)



### 11. Exterior-Grade Fire-Retardant Wood

SaferWood with Thermex-FR is solid-sawn lumber or plywood that has been pressure-treated with Chemco's fire-retardant chemicals to create ignition-resistant, fire-retardant wood (FRTW) with a Flame Spread Index less than 25 and a Smoke Development Index less than 45 on listed species (see ICC-Evaluation Service Report 1159). According to the manufacturer, SaferWood's use is compliant with codes in International Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) zones in applications such as siding, deck, railing, and exterior plywood sheathing. It is also approved for interiors. [saferwood.com](http://saferwood.com)



### 12. Slip-Resistant Flooring

AHF Products has released an enhanced Armstrong Flooring slip-retardant Safety Zone Tile in colors that match the manufacturer's Standard Excelon Imperial Texture line of vinyl composition tiles. The updated flooring has an embossed surface embedded with particles and provides twice the slip resistance of standard vinyl composition tile in wet conditions, according to the manufacturer. [armstrongflooring.com/en-us](http://armstrongflooring.com/en-us)

