

March 2007

New Material

By Nigel F. Maynard

The Tiles that Bind

Eco-Terr terrazzo tiles from Miami-based Coverings Etc are formed using 80 percent postindustrial stone and glass chips and a cement binder. The manufacturer claims the resulting tiles are thin, strong, and ideal for residential applications, particularly high-traffic areas. Offered in 41 colors with four finishes, the tiles measure 16 inches or 24 inches square with thicknesses of 5/8 inch and 3/4 inch, respectively. Coverings Etc, 305.757.6000; www.coveringsetc.com.

Chop Top

Bamboo flooring and veneer are now common specs, but the material can still surprise. Take bamboo butcher block, the latest innovation from Bainbridge Island, Wash.-based Teragren. Made from end-grain bamboo bonded with a formaldehyde-free and food-safe adhesive, the 1 1/2-inch-thick panels come in three standard sizes--30 inches by 96 inches, 36 inches by 72 inches, and 48 inches by 96 inches. The panels are manufactured in a parquet pattern in natural or caramelized colors; custom orders are also accepted. Teragren, 800.929.6333; www.teragren.com.



Screen Dreams

Japanese sliding doors from German shoji manufacturer Shoji Living are now distributed in the United States. Crafted of vertical-grain Douglas fir recovered from managed forests, the handmade screens can be speced with three different facings: polyester-reinforced paper, PVC-laminated shoji paper, or environmentally friendly decorative resin panels from 3form. The screens function as closet doors or room dividers and accept a variety of zero-VOC stains. Shoji Living, 800.846.5812; www.shoji-living.com.