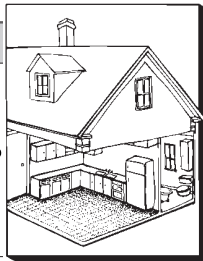


The Leading Edges



by Patrick J. Galvin

Ordinary countertops for ordinary kitchens are available with either square or rolled edges, at ridiculously low prices from local fabricators, from distributors, or even from home centers in stock lengths.

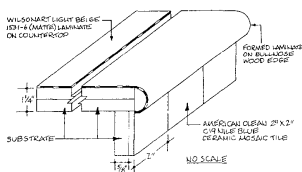
But there is a better answer for the builder who wants to wow the customer who is looking for more and is willing to pay for it. For the builder it will mean more profit.

That answer is custom edging. This trend began with the marriage of wood edges and decorative laminate surfacing. But now it has expanded to imaginative combinations of a variety of materials.

The new edge treatments were highlighted at this year's National Kitchen/Bath Conference in Atlanta in a seminar that combined three divergent experts, each of whom designed two tops: Gretchen Edwards, CKD, designer and tile specialist from Telford Pa., who did the color coordination; Dave Blonda, Corian technical specialist, and Bill Mayfield, Lantana Ha., top fabricator.

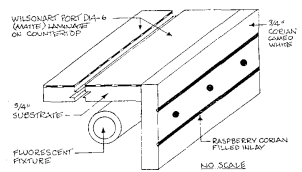
The three worked with decorative laminate products from the cooperating firms—American Olean, DuPont Corian, and Wilsonart. Following are their creations, with the product designations of those three firms.

The Classic. This postformed bullnose edge uses a light beige laminate above a skirt covered in 2-



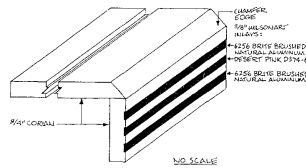
inch-square ceramic mosaics of Nile blue. The laminate is bonded with either contact or panel adhesive, and the tiles are bonded to the substrate with silicone. Use grout between tiles.

The High Tech. This takes advantage of the translucence of Corian. The vertical piece is 3/4-inch



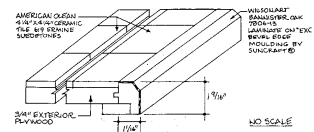
cameo-white Corian. The face has routed grooves filled with a raspberry-colored Corian inlay. A fluorescent tube is mounted behind for a luminescent effect. The top itself is Wilsonart Port laminate. Silicone bonds the Corian to the substrate.

The Contemporary. Accent strips of laminate (the colors are desert pink and brushed aluminum) are fitted into the routed Corian edge.



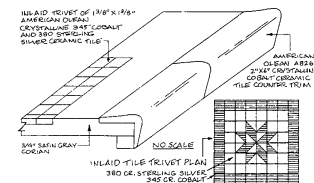
The countertop is the new Sierra Midnight Corian, a dark granite-like top with chamfered edge. Clear contact cement bonds the laminate strips to the Corian, and Corian joint adhesive bonds the edge to the top.

The Traditon. American Olean 4 1/4-inch-square ermine-suedetone ceramic tiles are used to surface this top, with a bevel-edge Suncraft molding surfaced with contact adhesive, and tiles are bonded to the



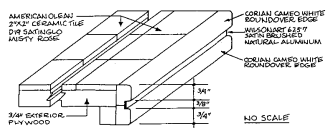
substrate with epoxy or a Type 1 organic adhesive. Use an epoxy grout.

The Country Look. A tile trivet made of 1-3/8-inch squares and halves in crystalline cobalt and crystalline



sterling-silver is inlaid in satin-gray Corian for this top. Special 2x6-inch counter trim tiles form the edge. Silicone adhesive is used here for all bonding, with epoxy grout.

The Victorian. Two roundover edges of 3/4-inch cameo-white Corian frame a 3/8-inch center strip of Wilsonart's satin-brushed natural aluminum laminate. The top surface



is American Olean's 2-inch square tiles in Satinglo misty rose. Panel adhesive bonds the edge to the top, clear contact bonds the metal strip, and epoxy or a Type 1 organic adhesive can be used to bond tiles to substrate. Epoxy grout is used between tiles. ■

Patrick J. Galvin is the author of Kitchen Planning Guide for Builders, Designers and Architects, and the former editor and publisher of Kitchen & Bath Business.