

# Products | Decorative Ceilings | by Patrick McCombe

**Nice View.** Few would argue that 2x2 and 2x4 drop-ceiling tiles and fluorescent fixtures — found in countless homes and virtually every commercial building in America — are architectural gems. A new product, *Ceiling Scenes*, makes it easy to boost their appeal. These printed light lenses and ceiling tiles create the illusion of a starry sky, a forest canopy, fluffy clouds — you name it. The company offers a library of stock images; for an additional charge, it can produce custom images. Ceiling tiles cost \$46 (2x2) and \$87 (2x4) apiece; light lenses cost \$75 (2x2) and \$150 (2x4) apiece.

**Ceiling Scenes**, 616/546-3543, [www.ceilingscenes.com](http://www.ceilingscenes.com). **Circle #7**



**Tin Substitute.** Installing a tin ceiling can take a long time and leave your hands battered — but now you can achieve a similar look minus the bloodletting with a *Tin Look* ceiling from Armstrong. According to the manufacturer, the 1-foot-square acoustic tiles install easier and cost less (\$2.25 a square foot) than real tin. They come in eight patterns; all feature a white, vinyl-coated surface, and none require a grid.

**Armstrong**, 800/233-3823, [www.armstrong.com](http://www.armstrong.com). **Circle #8**



**Premium Panels.** With huge expanses of drop ceiling on display and relatively little wall exposed, many casinos rely on *Above View* drop-ceiling panels to jazz up their interiors. No reason a residence can't cash in on that neat trick, too. The 2x2 panels — which are made from reinforced gypsum — cut like drywall and install in ordinary grid systems. And at 2 to 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> pounds per square foot, they stay in place without hold-down clips. Finishing options are practically endless, so prices range all over the board; generally, they run under \$10 per square foot.

**Above View**, 414/744-7118, [www.aboveview.com](http://www.aboveview.com). **Circle #9**

## Products | Paints & Coatings

**Mold Management.** The M-word makes everyone a little nervous. Homeowners envision walls blackened with fuzzy growth and contractors imagine six-figure court settlements. Perhaps both groups will be able to sleep better knowing that homes have been treated with Foster's *40-80 Disinfectant/Sanitizer* (\$37 to \$47 per 5-gallon pail). In addition to mold, the product kills a variety of viruses and bacteria on porous, semiporous, and nonporous materials, including carpet, wood, and drywall. The maker says it's also a good choice for cleaning up after leaks and flooding. Once treated, surfaces can be sealed with the company's *40-20 Fungicidal Protective Coating* (\$225 to \$242 per 5-gallon pail) or *40-51 Mold-Resistant Clear Coat* (\$199 to \$233 per 5-gallon pail).

**Foster Products**, 800/231-9541, [www.fosterproducts.com](http://www.fosterproducts.com). **Circle #10**



**Hybrid Stain.** I've never heard anyone complain about the performance of a Sikkens product. The company's *Rubbol Siding Finish* is a low-sheen solid stain with a unique alkyd/acrylic blended formula that Sikkens says offers the advantages of both finish types. The company claims that Rubbol often covers in one coat without a primer when used on bare wood, and that it can also be applied over previously painted latex- and oil-based surfaces. My local dealer quoted me a price of \$32 a gallon.

**Sikkens**, 866/745-5367, [www.nam.sikkens.com](http://www.nam.sikkens.com). **Circle #11**



**One-Coat Coverage.** Who wouldn't prefer to do less painting? According to the maker, *ProMar 200XP* provides a high-build, uniform finish in one less coat. Applied at the recommended wet-film thickness of 10 to 14 mils, the self-priming paint allegedly minimizes drywall fuzz, minor surface scratches, and mud-porosity differences. The company also claims that one coat of it outlasts two coats of traditional paint. ProMar 200XP comes in a wide variety of colors in both flat and eggshell; the flat sells for about \$38 per gallon at my local Sherwin-Williams store.

**Sherwin-Williams**, 800/474-3794, [www.sherwin-williams.com](http://www.sherwin-williams.com). **Circle #12**



For more product information, visit ebuild, Hanley Wood's interactive product catalog, at [www.jlconline.com](http://www.jlconline.com) or [www.ebuild.com](http://www.ebuild.com)

## Products | Floor Coverings



**Check It Out.** Some flooring patterns never go out of style — the classic checkerboard, for instance. Available in four color schemes — all variations on the timeless checkerboard theme — Mannington's *Checkpoint* features a vinyl formula designed to resist the kind of yellowing that occurs when, say, a homeowner keeps a rubber-backed mat in front of the sink for a year or two. It costs about \$3.39 per square foot.

**Mannington**, 800/482-9527, [www.mannington.com](http://www.mannington.com). **Circle #14**



**Updated Favorite.** Like sheet linoleum, *Nova-Linoleum* is versatile and eco-friendly. Unlike the sheet version, it comes in 7/16-inch-thick click-together planks. Each 12-inch-by-36-inch strip contains three layers: a 2mm linoleum surface, a fiber-core center, and a 2mm base of low-density cork. The flooring is hypoallergenic and easy to install, says the manufacturer. Sold in 11 colors, it costs between \$5 and \$6 per square foot.

**NovaLinoleum**, 866/576-2458, [www.novafloorings.com](http://www.novafloorings.com). **Circle #13**

**Tough Stuff.** Vinyl-composition tile — VCT — is popular in commercial spaces, schools, and hospitals for good reasons: It's inexpensive, wears like iron, and looks brand new after a good scrubbing and a couple of coats of wax — qualities that make it ideal for residences, too. Armstrong's *Arteffects* and *Excelon* tiles suit kitchens, rec spaces, and other wear-prone areas. And with over 100 patterns and colors between the two lines, design possibilities are limitless. Prices range from about \$1.50 to \$3 per square foot installed.

**Armstrong**, 800/233-3823, [www.armstrong.com](http://www.armstrong.com). **Circle #15**

