

## BUILT RIGHT FROM THE START

Even for those with building experience, getting a first new home out of the ground can be a challenge

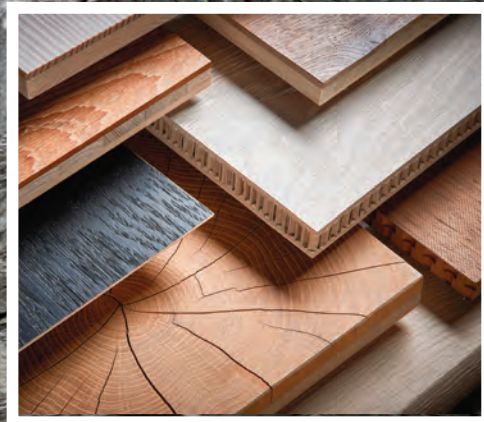
# Fine Homebuilding

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# SPEC

NEW AND NOTABLE PRODUCTS



## OLD-WORLD CRAFTSMANSHIP

The Hudson Company, a custom mill in upstate New York specializing in sustainably sourced and reclaimed wood products, has partnered with German flooring company Schotten & Hansen to expand its U.S. offerings to include naturally finished products from Germany's Bavaria region. Like all of the wood flooring (and paneling and beams) offered by The Hudson Company, the wood for this line is harvested sustainably. But what makes it particularly special is the way the Schotten & Hansen flooring is finished. The company's commitment to sustainability extends to the way they hand-finish their floors using only ingredients found in nature to add texture and color to the wood and to fill knot holes and other defects. Each piece is manually finished, planed, brushed, smoked, and colored using traditional German woodworking methods for old-world authenticity. A variety of waxes, oils, and resins top off the boards for a luxurious natural finish. —Jennifer Morris, editorial assistant

Photos courtesy of the manufacturers, except where noted

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### PHENOMENAL FENESTRATION

When you think of durable, energy-efficient windows and doors, steel frames may not be the first thing that comes to mind. But it's the strength of engineered frames made entirely of welded, thermally broken stainless steel that allows Rehme windows and doors to support expansive panes of insulated glass, and it's the alloy's unparalleled corrosion resistance that ensures those frames will stand up to the elements for decades with little to no maintenance.

Rehme's smart material choices and excellent engineering capabilities are not the only sources of their popularity. The company is equally sought after for the clean lines and fine details penned by their designers and hand-crafted by their fabricators at their solar-powered manufacturing facility in Spicewood, Texas. Rehme can manufacture just about any type of fenestration you could want, from fixed panels to elaborate arrays of hinged or pivoting windows and doors, with individual units ranging from small portals to impressive assemblies more than 15 ft. wide and 10 ft. tall. If you're considering including them in your next project, you would be well advised to involve a Rehme representative early in the design process, because you may be surprised by the scale and simplicity their slender stainless-steel frames can offer compared to wood-clad or extruded-aluminum windows and doors. —Rob Wotzak, digital brand manager

### LONGER-LASTING WOOD POSTS

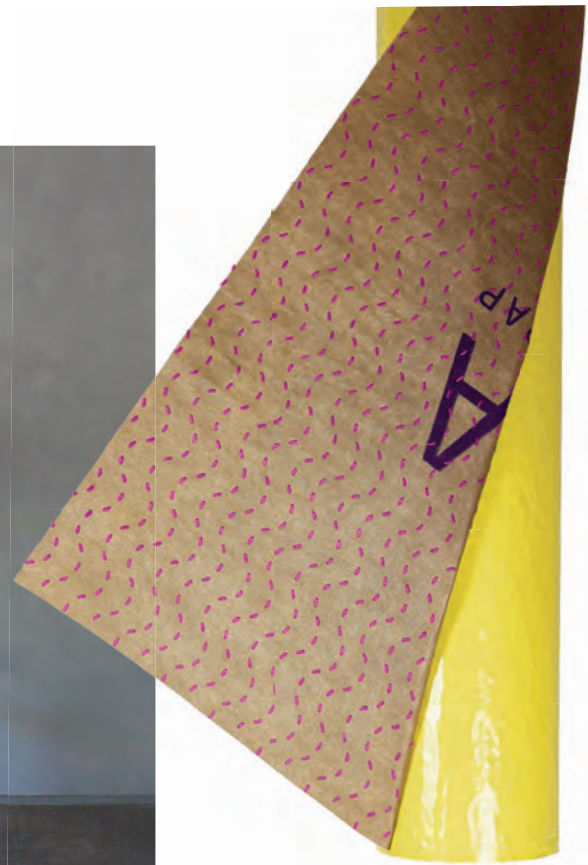
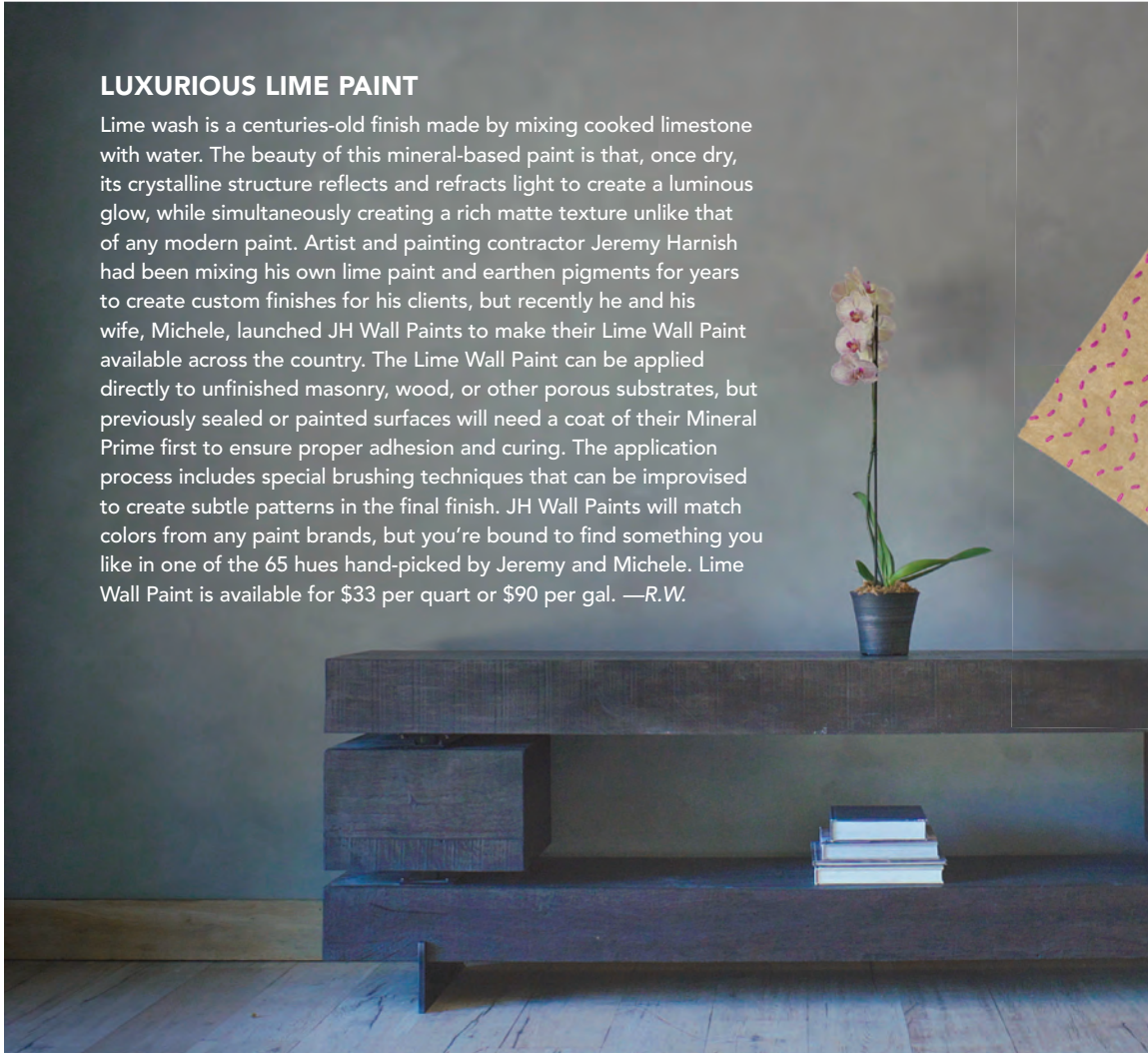
When you call 1-877-WONT-ROT, you hear, "Post Protector! Ken!" Buying direct is worth it just to chat with the charismatic inventor, who initially created the Post Protector to help some friends build more durable and affordable pole barns. Post Protector is a simple-to-install plastic resin sleeve that encases the buried portion of a post or pole to isolate it from the creepy-crawly microbes that cause wood to decay. They save you money by eliminating the need for concrete piers—just bury your posts in the ground atop concrete footings, which in many cases can be poured as you're setting the posts. Because the posts go directly in the ground, there's no post-to-footing hardware to buy either. And because you don't fill the hole with concrete, you can refill it with whatever you dug out of it instead of having to move it and find a place to get rid of it.

Post Protector comes in multiple widths and lengths to wrap posts and poles for fences, decks, barns, and more. Prices start at \$21 for a 4-in. by 4-in. by 42-in. sleeve. —Mark Clement, remodeling carpenter



## LUXURIOUS LIME PAINT

Lime wash is a centuries-old finish made by mixing cooked limestone with water. The beauty of this mineral-based paint is that, once dry, its crystalline structure reflects and refracts light to create a luminous glow, while simultaneously creating a rich matte texture unlike that of any modern paint. Artist and painting contractor Jeremy Harnish had been mixing his own lime paint and earthen pigments for years to create custom finishes for his clients, but recently he and his wife, Michele, launched JH Wall Paints to make their Lime Wall Paint available across the country. The Lime Wall Paint can be applied directly to unfinished masonry, wood, or other porous substrates, but previously sealed or painted surfaces will need a coat of their Mineral Prime first to ensure proper adhesion and curing. The application process includes special brushing techniques that can be improvised to create subtle patterns in the final finish. JH Wall Paints will match colors from any paint brands, but you're bound to find something you like in one of the 65 hues hand-picked by Jeremy and Michele. Lime Wall Paint is available for \$33 per quart or \$90 per gal. —R.W.



## PEEL-AND STICK DRAINABLE HOUSEWRAP

Installing mechanically fastened housewrap neatly is not one of my strengths, which is why I was thrilled to hear about Benjamin Obdyke's new self-adhered (SA) version of their popular HydroGap water-resistant barrier just before starting a recent siding job. I found HydroGap SA easy to apply despite working solo. The nice thing is that the pressure-sensitive adhesive doesn't fully grab until you use a roller to activate it, which means it's easy to reposition a piece if you don't place it right where you want it on your first try. But what really made me happy was how it sits tight over every surface and around every corner, which not only looks tidy but also makes it easy to see what you're fastening to when it's time to install siding.

HydroGap SA is made of the same three-layer breathable polypropylene and has the same built-in 1-mm drainage spacers as the original HydroGap, and the breathable acrylic adhesive has a 12-perm rating and can handle UV exposure for up to four months. The 80-ft. rolls of HydroGap SA come in a compact 4<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-ft. width for easy handling. Look for them at your local building-supply store soon. —R.W.

## FAST, FLEXIBLE CAR CHARGER

Electrical vehicles (EVs) are fast becoming a popular alternative to gasoline-powered cars due to their low operating cost and increasing range, as well as the convenience of charging at home. But the benefits of typical 110v plug-in home chargers are offset by long charge times. The 240v ChargePoint Home Flex solves that problem, offering up to nine-times-faster charging speeds while still plugging in to a receptacle similar to those used for electric dryers or ovens. The Home Flex system works with all brands of EVs, and it can be set from 16 amp to 50 amp for a rate of 12 to 37 miles of range per hour of charge (the 48-amp and 50-amp settings require the charger to be hardwired into your home). Equipped with a 23-ft. charging cable, the system can be installed indoors or out. Other features include a smartphone app that can track and schedule charging as well as locate public ChargePoint stations when you're away from home.

Chargepoint Home Flex is available in NEMA 6-50 Plug and NEMA 14-50 Plug models for \$650 and is eligible for utility rebates and tax credits in many locations. —Jessica Chaloux, special projects editor

