

H O U S I N G

The
Portland
Observer

"Made In Oregon" travels to Japan

Twelve Oregon secondary wood products manufacturers from across the state attended the 1997 Japan Home Show, in Tokyo, as part of WPCC's "Made In Oregon, USA" promotional pavilion.

This is the second year a group of Oregon producers has attended this show, with last year's show resulting in \$700,000 in new sales.

The firms participated in the Oregon Pavilion, a group trade booth boasting Oregon's manufacturing capabilities in the arena of value-added wood products.

The pavilion featured Ray Atkinson photos of Mt. Hood surrounded by verdant forests, and the pavilion's message focuses on Oregon quality and craftsmanship.

The Japan Home Show attracts over 115,000 buyers annually look-

ing for products to support Japan's 1.4 million annual housing starts.

WPCC has also been invited to provide a seminar presentation to buyers at the Japan Home Show, which will focus on the varied capabilities of Oregon's value-added wood products industry.

Firms participating in the Oregon Pavilion at the Japan Home Show included:

- American Home Supply, Portland
- Brentwood Manufacturing, Molalla
- Cascade Pacific, Jasper
- Columbia Hardwood & Moulding, Tigard
- Contact Lumber, Portland
- Oregon Dome, Eugene
- Morelock Wood Products, Bend
- Parsons Pine Products, Ashland
- Plymart/Edgewater, Boring

- Real Wood Products, Eugene
- Universal Forest Products, Woodburn
- Woodward & Dickerson, Salem

On Oct. 28 & 29, WPCC will be representing Oregon wood processors at the International Timber and Forestry Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

This program, which focuses on the expanding Southeast Asian economies of Singapore, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Thailand, and Malaysia features speakers from around the world.

WPCC has been invited as one of only four North American speakers on the program and will discuss value-added manufacturing opportunities in the Pacific Northwest.

WPCC is an association of secondary wood products manufactur-

ers that assists firms in the area of Market Development, Capital Access, Technology and Training, and Supply Development.

Originally created as a state agency, WPCC has been a private, non-profit association since June 1993. WPCC was established to devise strategies to improve and promote the competitiveness of Oregon's secondary wood products industry—the 800 firms that employ more than 20,000 persons in the manufacture of millwork, cabinetry, furniture, and other specialty products.

A seven-member industry board of directors is elected by WPCC membership to staggered two-year terms.

The WPCC has over 100 members employing more than 8,000 persons.

Habitat for Humanity's first Earth-Smart home

Earth Smart homes are constructed using environmentally-friendly and recycled materials, provided healthier living and contributing to environmental sustainability.

Given the structural integrity of the existing house (2320 N. Kilpatrick, Portland, Oregon), it was decided to strip the 500 sq. ft. home to its framing and rebuild it to Earth Smart standards. An additional 200 sq. ft. will be added, including a new kitchen and bathroom.

The complete home will serve as a model of energy and resource efficiency for further community homebuilding projects.

A healthier home

• Like all Earth Smart buildings, this home will feature improved indoor air quality by reducing use of common indoor air pollutants, such as radon and formaldehyde.

• Environmentally-friendly floor coverings, such as non-toxic PET-type carpets and carpet pads, and linoleum made of safe, natural mate-

rials, will prevent the release of harmful vapors.

• The paint in the home will be solvent-free, and adhesives and sealants will be low-toxicity.

• Combustion byproducts, including carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides and particulates, will be eliminated by the use of all-electric heating and appliances.

• Fresh air vents in the living room and bedroom windows will allow regulated amounts of fresh air when fans operate.

• Residents will enjoy clean water with drinking water filter installed on the kitchen sink and a chlorine filter on the shower.

Environmental Responsible

• Throughout the demolition and construction process, waste materials will be minimized by recycling clean wood, metals and concrete and salvaging reusable lumber.

• Rooftop rainwater will be diverted in to raised planter beds and permeable paving will be used for a

new path to reduce runoff from the site to the street and storm drains.

• Existing trees and shrubs will be preserved and protected during construction.

• New landscaping will include rescued plants, native hardy plants and meadow grasses to provide food and cover for birds and insects, and reduce the amount of water required and chemicals introduced into the environment.

• Additional environmental measures include limiting the lawn area and using earth-friendly plastic lumber for porch decking.

Resource and energy efficiency
• Construction techniques will employ the efficient use of wood by using the home's existing exterior walls, subfloor and roof.

• Interior trim will be composite type, instead of commonly used clear tight-grain trim cut from mature trees. When possible, recycled content materials will be used, including: drywall, carpet (100% recycled plastic from pop

and catsup bottles), exterior latex paint, concrete and insulation.

• Rejuvenation is generously donating salvaged house parts, such as interior doors, cabinet and door hardware, light fixtures and plumbing fixtures, as appropriate to the house.

• High efficiency windows (15% more efficient than code requires) and doors will decrease heat loss and provide significant energy savings.

• Drafts, dust and noise will be greatly reduced by using high R-value insulation and tightly air sealing the house.

• A smart thermostat will provide precise control of electric radiant heating units, for better comfort, safety, quiet operation and efficiency.

• An efficient electric water heater will increase safety and reduce energy use.

• Additional energy savings will be realized through the use of low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators, an electric kitchen range and compact fluorescent bulbs.

Hanging wallpaper is easier than you think

Some people are terrified at the idea of hanging wallpaper. They have visions of mayhem from something out of I Love Lucy, with paste all over everything and rolls of paper tumbling out the window. But it can be expensive to hire somebody—up to \$30 a double roll—and wallpapering is easier than you think to do yourself.

What concerns people the most is the prospect that the glued paper will bond to the wall instantly and irreversibly as soon as you touch it to the surface. That's what I thought the first time I tried it, and it's totally untrue.

Wallpaper sticks with wet glue, so you have at least five minutes to reposition the paper. This makes it easy to be sure the paper is straight, and also that it lines up correctly with the previous sheet. It's easy to understand why people worry about hanging wallpaper. When you spend \$20 for a roll, you don't want to mess it up.

Try starting small and working

your way up to larger projects. A dining room chair rail or a bedroom accent wall are good places to begin. Bathrooms and kitchens are the hardest wallpapering jobs, because there are more cuts to make. Be sure to buy more than enough wall paper up front, and that each roll has the same lot number, so that the colors will match perfectly.

To begin, prepare the wall surface to eliminate any imperfections that could show through. With unfinished sheetrock, paint on a primer first, so the wallpaper glue doesn't soak into the sheetrock. If there are nail holes, patch them, because paper shows every identification.

When I first moved into my home, my kitchen wallpaper had huge red apples going this way and that. I didn't know what to do about it, so I tried painting over it. That wasn't nearly enough to hide those apples haven't been seen since.

It's important to make sure the first sheet on each wall is straight, and that's easy to do with a level and

a pencil. Use the level to draw a vertical guide line on the wall. When you're ready to hang the first sheet, position the edge along your guide line. Before you hang, unroll the dry wallpaper on a table, and use a straight edge and a sharp razor to cut the first sheet. Cut the paper a few inches longer than the height of your wall, then trim it at the ceiling and baseboard after you've glued the paper to the wall.

Most wallpaper sold these days is pre-pasted, so there's no need to apply paste to the back. Just dip into a wallpaper tray full of water, remove it, and wait five minutes before applying to allow the paper and paste to soften. When you remove the paper from the tray, gently fold it over onto itself with the pasted side of one half touching the pasted side of each other.

Wallpaper activator is a little easier to use than water, because there's less dripping, and you have even more time to re-position the paper if needed. To apply, press the paper to

the wall with a plastic smoother or foam brush, and brush all the air bubbles to the edge. Don't press on the paper too hard, or you'll squeeze out the paste. If a corner pops up later on, it's easy to reattach it with a tube of wallpaper glue.

Slide subsequent sheets into place so the edges meet, but do not overlap. Before you cut the second sheet, hold the paper up against the wall, or have a partner do it, and line up the pattern. Then cut, paste and trim.

If you're wallpapering a whole room, hang your first sheet in an inconspicuous place, because the first and last sheets won't match perfectly. The best place to begin is usually a corner above the doorway, because it's not visible as you walk into the room.

If you'd like to try wallpapering and want to practice first, look for workshops in community centers or stores that sell wallpaper. They'll take you through the process step-by-step.

New Housing on the river

River Districts plans turn to realty as ground is broken on 550 new housing units.

A groundbreaking ceremony was the official beginning for construction of the first 550 units of new housing in the River District. Construction will take place in three phases with this groundbreaking commemorating the first two phases.

Phase one features a 158-unit rental project developed by GSL Properties with the Housing Authority of Portland as General Partner. The apartments will be affordable to households earning between 50-60 percent of median income.

Phase two, also developed by GSL, features 391 units of housing includ-

ing 337 mixed-income rental units, 20 affordable condominiums and 36 market-rate condos.

The groundbreaking was on Monday, October 21, at the Project Site, N.W. Naito Parkway across from the McCormick Pier Apartments.

Speakers were Howard Shapiro, emcee, Housing Authority of Portland; Mayor Vera Katz; Skip Grodahl, President and CEO, GSL Properties; and E. Kay Stepp, Portland Development Commission.

The River District Plan calls for construction of over 5,000 new housing units in the River District over the next 20 years. The Yards at Union Station represents the first significant step in meeting those goals.

Moody's rates Oregon housing A1

The long-term general obligation rating of the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department has been rated A1.

The Department currently has over \$700 million in outstanding bonds issued to provide housing related financing for Oregon residents.

The general obligation rating enhances their ability to provide financing for multifamily housing properties primarily through their participation in the FHA Multifamily Risk Sharing Program administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The A1 rating is based on the following credit factors:

- The Department has an experienced staff with proven capabilities

in the oversight and underwriting of single family and multifamily bond programs.

• The favorable performance of the Department's single family and multi-family bond programs contribute to the overall strength of the general obligation rating.

• The Department's financial condition is sound, reporting an adjusted combined fund balance of over \$70 million or 10% of total bond outstanding, per the most recent audited financial statements dated June 30, 1995. All bond programs are profitable and have sufficient liquidity to meet ongoing financial obligations.

The Department does not have any bonds outstanding backed solely by their general obligation.

Start now to fool poinsettias

October is the time to start coaxing potted poinsettia plants back into color and bloom for December.

If your poinsettias spent the summer outdoors, they should be back indoors by now, according to Ross Penhallegon, horticulture agent with the Oregon State University Extension Service.

Poinsettias are native to tropical Mexico and Central America, where they grow as shrubs up to at least 10 feet tall. The large, brilliant red blooms are actually whorls of red "bracts", or leaf-like structures, rather than petals. In the Euphorbia family, poinsettia has cousins that live in Oregon including agenus of inconspicuous plants called spurge.

Sensitive to day length, the poinsettia needs a certain minimum amount of darkness each 24-hour period to stimulate blooming. With the shorter fall and winter days in Oregon, the poinsettia has a natural tendency to want to bloom in the fall, when there are about equal amounts of dark and light.

However, if the plants are exposed to lights inside and around the home, the plants won't receive enough darkness to start blooming and could stay vegetative (not bloom) through the winter.

To make a poinsettia bloom in the early winter, indoor gardeners simply need to adjust the amount of light and darkness to "fool" the plant, said Penhallegon.

Start in late October or early November. Place your poinsettias in a completely dark area from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. daily, until red colors start to develop on the top leaves. "This can take quite a while," warned Penhallegon. "Interrupting the darkness by even a few minutes may cause failure to bloom."

Bring the plant to ordinary light after the bracts show color. Poinsettia growers may have better luck if the bracts are almost fully expanded before bringing the plant out. Once the plant has large, colored bracts, the artificial light inside a house will not inhibit a poinsettia's blooms.

The OSU Extension Service offers "Care and Handling of Poinsettias," FS 162. It's available at no charge from Publications Orders, Extension and Experiment Station Communications, OSU, 422 Kerr Administration Building, Corvallis, OR 97331-2119; or from local county offices of the OSU Extension Service.

If ordering multiple copies, enclose 25 cents for each copy over six.

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