

Innovative Applications & Design

This fifth installment of Innovative Applications showcases brilliantly devised new applications of solid surface and quartz surfacing, along with inventive twists on traditional installations. No doubt, you have creative ideas of your own for these wonderfully versatile materials. Hopefully you will consider the projects exhibited in the pages to follow akin to seeds for planting in the rich soil of your fertile mind.



Hottest Thing On Four Wheels

America's love affair with the car has just gotten more intense. First, you take an F150 pickup truck (which just happens to be Ford's hottest selling model) then you add interior accoutrements worthy of a premier luxury car and top it off with a trim package made from Corian. The result? A down and dirty luxury pickup.

The truck, which took first place at the SEMA (Specialty Equipment Market Association) show, features a Corian Fossil trim package. The gauge mask, instrument panel, center console, door panel inserts, center stack mask, and even the shifter handle were made of Corian. Most of the material was cut on a CNC, thermoformed, polished and sized. The shifter handle was turned on a lathe.

Fabrication of the material was done in-house by Prefix Corporation of Rochester Hills, Mich, which designs and builds concept and show cars made to order for the major auto manufacturers. "At first we were concerned about getting enough heat-sink into the material prior to thermoforming," says Prefix's Marc Gerstenberger. "We simply cooked it overnight in one of the big ovens, and that solved the issue. Overall, workability of the material was phenomenal -- it's really nice to work with."