



Hillcraft Ltd. Celebrates Silver Anniversary



Custom cherry raised panel display cases with etched glass in head coach Barry Alvarez's office.

For 25 years Hillcraft has continuously focused on being a full service architectural casework manufacturer. Providing high quality workmanship and service on every type of building from restaurants and retail stores, hospitals and schools to law offices and dental clinics. From standard laminate casework and cabinetry, to custom wood nurses' stations, reception desks, wood paneling and one-of-a-kind stone tops and walls.

Providing all aspects and needs of the interior has given us a unique advantage – an advantage that our clients use to make their projects go right, on time and on budget.

We've grown from 5 guys in a small garage with a table saw, to 70 employees

utilizing CAD design-to-manufacture systems combined with our skilled craftsmen's finishing touches. As owners, we take a hands-on approach with every project and still enjoy interacting with our customers, vendors and employees each day.

In 25 years, we have crossed many bridges and logged many hours and look forward to doing even more in our next 25 years.

We want to thank all those who have contributed to making our success. Especially the most

important people, YOU, our customers.

Sincerely,

Steve Damman & Forrest Lipke
Owners



Camp Randall Stadium Addition



UW Sports Information Center reception desk.

A Rewarding Challenge

When the University of Wisconsin decided to make sweeping changes to its beloved Camp Randall stadium, they had to get the most for their dollar and have it ready for the '05 season. With good weather, general contractor Cullen-Smith pushed the opening up by four months to be ready for the '04 season. Hillcraft responded to this challenge in approximately 8 months to provide design assistance, value engineering, shop drawings and product delivery. We were on an extremely fast track to have everything completed by the first home game September 4th 2004.

Delivery began in March on the north section of the project consisting of the coaches' offices, 72 private suites, the Buckingham Club and the Varsity Club areas. Construction continued south eventually ending at



Visitors locker room at Camp Randall.

Kellner Hall, which houses the athletic directors and all of the administrative area.

Some of the challenges were short lead times, design/build on areas as they became available, as well as staying within the budget. Since the stadium is a true bowl design it created many areas where walls were not at typical 45 or 90-degree angles. There was a lot of templating and additional field measuring required ensuring the casework was manufactured correctly the first time. A tremendous amount of time was spent coordinating deliveries due to limited access to elevators and entries, as well as providing the installation team with product as the rooms became available.



UW Athletic Department reception desk.

The project consisted of cherry cabinetry in the coach's office, maple cabinets in the private suites, laminate and maple components in the Buckingham and Varsity Clubs seating areas, window sills, laminate casework in the common areas and offices, lockers in the Visitors locker room, and custom maple reception desks with Indus red Zodiac countertops. We also provided maple and the Indus red Zodiac wall panels in the "WOW" room, where visitors, including recruits are brought to get a first perspective on Badger football.

Custom cherry cabinets with etched glass were built for the head coach's office. As a certified installer and fabricator for Dupont's solid surface products, we installed the Zodiac tops and panels.

We want to thank all of our suppliers for their cooperation with on-time shipments, which allowed us to stay on schedule. We also want to thank Cullen-Smith for how they managed this project. At times up to 600 workers were on the site at once. Major kudos to Jim Schumacher and Jeremy Shecterle from JP Cullen, and Jerry Wheaton and Justin Schmitz from CD Smith, for their great management skills. It was truly a "team" effort put forth by all of the trades in completing this project in the accelerated time schedule. It was great working with you on Camp Randall.



“The World’s Largest Straw Harvest Continues”

Review by Gregory M. Bednar, CSI, CDT, of
Alpine Plywood Corporation, Milw, WI

Every once in a while, a product comes along which makes you stop and take notice. WoodStalk, produced by the Dow Chemical Company is just one such product.

WoodStalk is a revolutionary new building substrate which addresses the growing demand by Design / Construction Professionals for a truly “green-sustainable” building material. It is a high quality, industrial substrate for constructing architectural millwork, cabinetry, and case goods.

What makes WoodStalk unique is that it is produced almost entirely from the shafts of wheat. It effectively takes a waste by-product, wheat straw, and transforms it into a valuable second-generation crop for farming communities. It may be an ideal raw material in which to produce particle board as wheat grows in all 50 states and can be grown as an annual crop.

But harvesting wheat straw has numerous ecological benefits which extend beyond the end product. As a waste component of growing wheat, wheat straw had previously been burned off farmers’ fields. This burning process released thick, black, acrid smoke into the atmosphere. Now skies can remain clear from the activity. Just one Dow BioProducts’ plant (at full capacity), prevents the equivalent greenhouse gas emission of 36,000 minivans, traveling 12,500 miles annually, from entering the atmosphere. Wow, that’s an impact!

In 2002, the highly regarded publisher of the GreenSpec Directory and Environmental Building News, Building Green, Inc., established WoodStalk as a top 10 green building material. It has grown exponentially in popularity ever since.

Ok. Ecologically the product sounds wonderful, but how does the product perform as a substrate for woodwork? Well, it may be the re-invention of sliced bread itself!

Consider for a moment;

1. WoodStalk is a homogenous and an extremely uniform material. It is well suited for laminating and veneering and minimizes telegraphing through face veneers.

2. Dow Chemical states they produce all the components, including the resin mix, used in the manufacture of the product. Often, wood products deviate in consistency due to varying sources of resins, binders, as well as the source material. Some of these deviations are unavoidable as they occur naturally; such as variations within the same species of tree. WoodStalk is a more consistent product because its source “furnish” and resin base come from a more consistent and controlled source.

3. WoodStalk possesses none of the typical off-gassing found in other wood-engineered products. It uses no formaldehyde as its binder. Instead, methylene diphenyl diisocyanate (MDI) urethane resin is used resulting in a product with no VOC emissions within just 48 hours of its manufacture! This absence of off-gassing makes WoodStalk an ideal choice for use in health care, educational institutions, and museum displays where off-gassing issues are of high concern.

4. Dow’s choice of the MDI resin mix is also responsible for its wonderful machinability. WoodStalk’s increased fiber content (93% by mass) and reduced resin content produce less friction with the saw blade. This reduced friction enhances saw cuts and machinability of the product. One woodworking firm, who previously reported getting 2 hours of cutting per blade with traditional particle board, found they achieved 8 hours between blade changes using WoodStalk. They further achieved substantial cost/time savings by not having to change blades as often (typically 30 minutes per blade change).

Many find the machinability of WoodStalk to approach that of a MDF product, however, unlike MDF, WoodStalk’s screw holding characteristics are superb. As a hybrid-engineered product, WoodStalk has been designed to offer excellent machinability and screw holding power. Cutting WoodStalk is a pleasure as saw blades stay sharper longer and produce crisper, higher quality cuts.

5. Add to that the waxy characteristics naturally inherent in wheat straw, and you have a product with enhanced moisture resistance as well. The product is suited for areas where moisture may be encountered.

Please visit www.hillcraft.com for the complete review.

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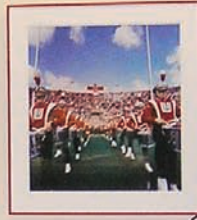
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See inside how Hillcraft was key partner on Camp Randall Addition.

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