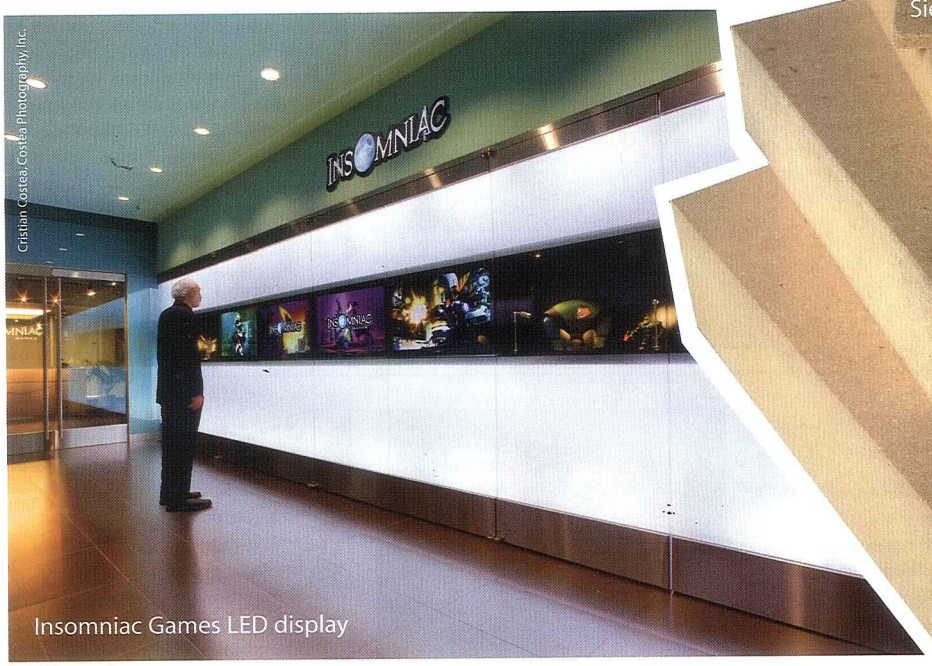
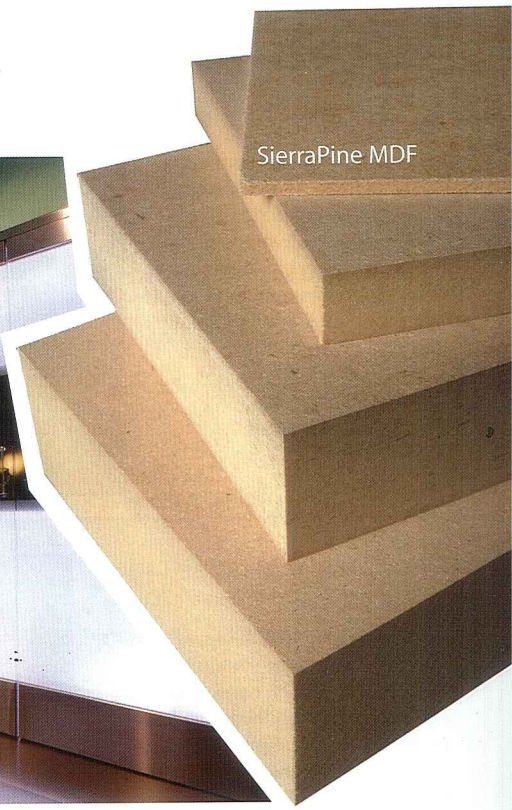
TOP 5



Cristian Costea, Costea Photography, Inc.

Insomniac Games LED display


SierraPine MDF

Richard Lehman, CID, shares a few of his favorite sustainable, locally sourced products

For more than 50 years, Environetics has been designing innovative custom interiors in Los Angeles, creating each space to reflect their client's core values. The company is deeply committed to incorporating sustainable, eco-friendly products into its projects. Here, Richard Lehman, Director of Design, offers his take on indispensible products.

SIERRAPINE MDF

This product is a standard in our office and is a great substrate for millwork. It has multi-faceted benefits: low emitting, formaldehyde free binding system, a high amount of recycled content and it is available in an array of choices such as for high moisture or flame retardant applications. It is flexible and easy to use, readily available and they have a great customer service staff that retains your specifications and standards.

LED LIGHTING

Light Emitting Diodes have come a long way. We love employing this highly efficient technology now available in a wide array of applications, color temperatures and options, making its use a no-brainer. This coupled with the fact that LED's have long lives and do not contain mercury, helps us optimize our sustainability goals. We recently incorporated Powerplus L575 RGBW by ColorGlo LED display lighting behind the frosted glass at the Insomniac Games offices, and programmed the lights to cycle through a specific set of color changes.

PORCELAIN TILE

Porcelain tile is a hard, strong, dense, long lasting material. It is available in a wide variety of colors, textures, and styles, plus low life cycle costs. When we specify products, we try to look at the big picture considering its total life, not just how it affects our clients in the immediate future. We used TEI-PORC-Metakler Porcelain from Tile Emporium International, Inc. on the elevator lobby floor and the elevator door wall at Insomniac. It is similar in appearance to the stainless steel used on the interior of the elevators, and we liked the metallic nature of the finish because it reflects the architectural lighting.

STEEL

Steel and aluminum are wonderful materials. They give the feel and security of longevity, and at the same time, they are easily recycled and require minimal care. When considering steel we avoid chrome because of its impact on the environment so instead we use polished stainless steel. We do whatever we can to source it locally as well as using a good fabricator that is able to create our custom vision with seamless execution. We sometimes like to let unfinished steel rust and then coat it with an environmentally friendly clear sealer. That is a beautiful, warm, natural, appearance we love to see on walls and furniture.

GLASS

Glass is an amazing and versatile material. It provides another dimension, filter, or experience. It can be etched, painted, coated, tempered, doubled, or laminated. It can bring light in and diffuse it. It is easy to source locally, highly recyclable, and timeless. We love using it in all types of spaces. The new crop of glass films and sandwiched materials has given us so much latitude in exploring the nature and potential of glass. Usually, we choose an appropriate structural configuration of the glass and then consider the finish and texture. As for suppliers, we look for those that are local and provide good service, such as Pulp Studios. ■