

Home Zone: Spread the wood around

by Maggie_Reed

Now you can bring the richness of exotic hardwood to any level of your home.

The Armstrong Valenza Hardwood collection offers new engineered floors that can be installed on any level of the home as well as solid floors that can be sanded and refinished if necessary.

EXOTIC FLOORING - Armstrong offers seven new Valenza exotic hardwood floors, including this solid Pangali Ironwood. CNS Photo courtesy of Armstrong.

A WARMER YOU - You can extend the feeling of luxury after taking a bath or shower with additional warmth and pampering by using the Jacuzzi Whirlpool Bath's Home Spa Towel Warming Drawer. CNS Photo courtesy of Jacuzzi Whirlpool Bath.

The seven new Valenza products include four engineered species - Brazilian ruby ironwood, tigerwood, tauari and pangali ironwood; and three solid species - Tigerwood, tauari and pangali ironwood.

"It's not just oak anymore. It's no secret that although oak remains a dominant choice in hardwood floors, it is handing over the baton to more individualistic products," said Sara M. Babinski, principal designer with Armstrong.

"The demand for exotic species is growing dramatically. Species such as Tigerwood, Santos Mahogany, Pangali Ironwood and Kempas are all the rage today. They take their distinctiveness from a combination of origin, unusual visuals and color. They are seen as unique, and new to our design world adding international flair," she said.

Exotic hardwoods remain popular for its inherent hardness and unique color and graining.

Valenza's engineered products may be glued to a slab foundation in the home's lower level while the same species in a solid construction may be installed on or above grade only. The collection is available in 3 1/2-inch planks with microbeveled edges and ends, and a 25-year residential finish warranty and lifetime structural warranty. Engineered products also carry a three-year commercial finish warranty.

"People continue to 'globe trot' and many different stores further expose consumers to exotic looks and items from far-off places. And, when there's no opportunity to travel, the Internet connects the world to you," Babinski said.

For more information, visit www.armstrong.com.

A CLEANER, WARMER YOU

Jacuzzi Whirlpool Bath can help add luxury and pampering to your bathroom with the Refresh Personal Hygiene System. This washlet seat works by remote control and offers a range of features - front and back water cleansing, warm air dryer and a heating control to help you with those cold morning trips to the water closet.

It is available in both round front and elongated styles.

And to help you keep warm, there is the Home Spa Towel Warming Drawer.

You can place up to four towels in the drawer by draping them over the heat-generating poles. In a matter of only 15 minutes, towels are a toasty 120 degrees.

The drawer can be adapted to a new or existing bathroom and is offered in 36-inch and 24-inch sizes.

For more information, call 800-288-4002 or visit www.jacuzzi.com.

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