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MILES INDUSTRIES

FLAME ON!

A warm heart to your home at the flip of a switch

by Robin Brunet

electric fireplaces. The former is available as built-in, plug-in, wall-mount and insert units, all of which save time and money onsite as fewer tradespeople are required for installation. Because no gas supply or venting is required, the integrity of the building envelope is maintained. The fireplaces can be used with or without heat, and all units have realistic flames, logs and embers.

Fireplaces Unlimited and Dimplex are promoting the latest breakthrough in electric technology, namely the Optiflame Purifire air-treatment system incorporated into the Optiflame BF33DXP and BF39DXP fireboxes. This is being marketed as the world's first integral air filtering electronic fireplace and uses a 10-inch-by-20-inch high-efficiency, washable filter that operates with the heater or may be run with the

air-circulating fan only to provide continuous, quiet cleaning. Optiflame Purifire exceeds the MERV (Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value) 10 rating, meaning it filters particulates and allergens as small as one micron, and it circulates and cleans the air of a 12-foot-by-14-foot room four times per hour. "This is yet another example of the advances being made in the electric realm," says Sundset, adding that such fireplaces are especially desirable in multi-family developments and condominiums where air circulation is a concern for developers. "Plus, condo owners with electric fireplaces pay for heat as they go, compared to condos with gas fireplaces whose gas flow isn't metered individually."

The *Montigo* line provides gas fireplace lovers with designs ranging from free-standing stoves to masonry inserts and custom units. The single-sided gas fireplace is typically recessed in the wall and installed with a mantel, while the multi-sided unit is available as a see-through, three-sided peninsula, panorama or corner model.

Just as Dimplex is credited for making major improvements in electric



SOLUS DECOR

or an average sized room up to four times per hour.

Photo 3: Solus's *Plana* collection of large-format concrete wall panels and tiles, Century Plaza Hotel, Vancouver.

Valor Horizon line that features the programmable remote *ValorStat* system. *Horizon* has a modulating fire for steady, even heat and operates during power outages.

The *Miles Retrofire* fireplace is a prefabricated gas heater that can be installed in an existing masonry or factory-built fireplace within a few hours. Engineered to keep heat in a home, the *Retrofire* unit is room-sealed and vented to the air outside the home, completely eliminating smoke, messy ashes and cold drafts.

Concorde Distributing is B.C.'s largest distributor of gas, pellet and wood fireplaces, and one of its more prominent offerings is the *Vermont Castings* line of gas fireplaces. Within this brand, the *Chateau DVT* models are reminiscent of open *Rumford*-style wood fireplaces, but with the convenience of gas. The *Brookhaven 20DVT* features a superbly curved arch that lends great character and presence to kitchens, dining rooms, even bathrooms. As for the *HiStyle DVBR* series, it is the first, true, clean-faced direct vent fireplace that satisfies consumer demands for more styling options in new homes and home improvements.

Thanks to *Vermont Castings*, Concorde also has access to an impressive range of electric fireplaces, two examples being the new *Allura-Fire Electric Fireplace* and the *Markham* (a fireplace and cabinet consisting of a *Vermont Castings Allura-Fire* 33-inch electric firebox and a classically designed cabinet mantel). *Vermont Castings* also offers a wood-burning *WinterWarm* System that includes firebox, large *WinterWarm* insert, and a zero clearance cabinet.

About 70 per cent of Delco Fireplaces's business is taken up supplying *Napoleon* gas fireplaces to clients, followed by *Optiflame* and *Kingsman* systems. New from *Napoleon* is the *Bayfield GDS25*, featuring *PHAZERAMIC* burner technology that provides a randomly flickering flame and realistic glowing ember bed. The *GDS25* also features an industry first in the form of a glowing night light with an on/off switch, and double-webbed arched doors which open wide to the sides.

Approved for bathroom, bedroom, bed sitting room and mobile home applications is the *Napoleon Park*



DIMPLEX



DIMPLEX



SOLUS DECOR

Avenue GD82NT, which like the *Bayfield* has a ceramic fibre moulded *PHAZER* log set for a natural wood-burning appearance. It provides up to 26,000 BTUs and 50 per cent flame/heat adjustment for optimum comfort and efficiency.

Vancouver-based Solus Decor manufactures cast-concrete fireplace surrounds and complete wall solutions. "We like to say that fireplace manufacturers create the fire and we help to create the place," says Brad Carpenter, a Solus partner. "One of the unique qualities of our cast concrete that is lacking in many of the competitive materials coming on the market today is it has a certain visual and tactile weight that feels timeless." On the practical side, Solus mantels and surrounds are non-combustible, so aesthetics are never sacrificed for clear-

ance issues. The concrete contains no harmful materials and will off-gas only water, even under the heated conditions of a fireplace.

Solus surrounds are available in an impressive range of styles, with descriptive names such as *Arch*, *Block*, *Cornice* and *Rondeau* (there are six other styles to choose from within the Solus catalogue). Also, Solus's tile systems (*Facet*, *Maxo*, *Plana* and *Linea*) can be used to tailor-finish any fireplace according to the user's personal tastes. "With the breadth of our product line, colour range and options, we not only accommodate any size and configuration of fireplace," says Carpenter. "But, we can also lend the clean aesthetic of cast concrete to virtually any style of home, be it traditional, transitional or, of course, contemporary." ■