



The Millworker

Federal Millwork Corporate Newsletter Volume III, 2004 Edition



Nestled neatly below the bleachers reserved for the student body, lies this magnificent room designed for and dedicated to those who faithfully, through the years, give of themselves and their means, to Hurricane athletics, the Hurricane 100.

The University of Miami historically attracts student athletes from across the country, as well as, from around the globe. With no family or friends to support these young people, the Athletic department has accepted the exciting challenge to be a melting pot for the numerous cultures represented. Thus, through a unified effort of support from friends and alumni of the University, they provide a touch of home to all its student athletes.

To provide a proper venue for mentor and recruit, the \$1,000,000.00 plus Hurricane Room 100 was created.

All manufactured from the finest Cherry veneers, the free-standing radius walls, with built-in reveals, house plasma television monitors which are used to simulcast the games being played on the court, as well as, other sporting events. The architect/designer created a modern setting while maintaining the desired warmth with the use of natural finished Maple display cabinets and Cherry paneled walls, providing an interesting contrast in color. A large plasma monitor is mounted on the feature wall which is uniquely hidden behind an interesting waterfall which provides a calming hush for all to enjoy.

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FMC ... *The home of "Wonders in Wood" for over 65 years!*

The President's Column

Concrete Shortage: Steel Prices Skyrocket

According to the *Florida Wood Council*, concrete shortages are slowing construction and price increases are cutting into builder's profits. Consensus has the shortages lasting well into the foreseeable future and possibly beyond 2004. Similarly, triple digit increases in the price of metal studs and reinforcing steel in short supply add to the woes of the industry while reflecting increased construction activity worldwide.

An independent study commissioned by the *Council* proved that framing a home with wood costs twenty-two percent less than that using concrete block. Furthermore, it takes up to three weeks less time to build the home of wood. With today's treated wood products free from fungal decay and termites and available in abundant supply, the more extensive use of wood, nature's great insulator, is a wise choice for the home owner.

Federal Millwork Corporation is proud to be a member of the Wood Council through our affiliation with the *Florida Building Material Association (FBMA)*

Richard Ungerbuehler, President

DID YOU KNOW?

One of our own was supposed to have a close encounter of the shark kind...



Larry Dringus, master craftsman, has a love for the sport of fly fishing. Larry was invited to be the featured fly fisherman for an article to be written for a national fly fishing magazine. On Wednesday, October 22, 2003, Larry was to embark on a unique adventure off the southeast coast of Florida to find a school of sharks. His assignment: catch a shark with a fly rod without the benefit of chumming.

Unfortunately, windy weather prevented the excursion, but not the fish stories.

Larry once told me that he caught a 240 pound fish off the Dania coastline on his fly rod...and had to cut the hook out of his ear by himself. Now he owns a new boat...I wonder what kind of fish story will be reported next...and in the years to come.

Richard A. Ungerbuehler

The Finishing Touch

The raw wood has been transformed into a masterpiece and your ready for the final touch, the finish. Your selection of a finishing system depends on your budget, and desired characteristics such as wearability, chemical resistance, reparability, adhesion, clarity and elasticity or hardness.

Cost - Top coat costs vary greatly, yet a low-cost finish may have only 18 percent solids and 82 percent solvent. A more expensive finish might have 70 percent solids, 10 percent catalyst and 20 percent solvent. The environmental cost should be computed because the least expensive finish (containing 82 percent solvent) may cost the most when environmental considerations for waste disposal are taken into account. Many woodworkers and owners fool themselves by using thin coats of finish. Yet these thin coatings do not protect or moisture-proof the wooden surface. Also, a thin, light coat of finish will often leave the surface dry with completely open pores. The least expensive oil finish requires eight coats to equal two coats of a catalyzed urethane, yet the oil will not protect the surface against water or chemicals.

Wear resistance usually depends on the coating's strength, which is based on its molecular makeup, solid content and the thickness with which it can be applied. Most wood finishes are made of complex mixes of resins, ranging from simple long grain oils to lacquers, varnishes, vinyls, urethanes and polyesters.

Chemical Resistance - Most household cleaners contain strong chemicals and many will harm finishes. The relative resistance to these chemicals is an important issue when specifying.

Reparability - Scratches in the top clear layers of the finish are fairly easily repaired with any of the finishing systems. Scratches which penetrate the stain will require the addition of colorant and a clear coat. Scratches which go deep into the wood will have to have filler or binder added to build up the damaged area before application of a new top layer of finish. Repairs made with soft-colored putty will look fine the first day, but given a few weeks and viewed from the side they may show small smudges of oily residue and will attract dirt or dust.

Adhesion is the finish's ability to stick to the wood's surface, i.e. -- the molecular attraction of the finish to the wood. It works in much the same way as a glue or adhesive. Adhesion is very important because a nick or dent can break the bond between the wood and finish. At that point the finish will become translucent and flake off. In some cases stains or solvents can interfere with the process of adhesion.



Specialty Finish on Community Foundation Conference Table by FMC Lead Finisher Victor Wacholder.

University of Miami - Hurricane 100 Room



FMC—AWI Premium Certified Woodwork

Almost all touch-up color should be a similar coating to the finish surrounding it. A competent touch-up or repair requires a good eye for color, color surface effect, gloss and grain character. Almost all finish is repairable, but high gloss finishes are the hardest to repair.

Clarity - Some finishes are clearer than others. Conversion varnishes and water-borne applications may appear milky when small bubbles are entrapped in the finish. This "microfoam" also will show up as a consistently milky area when applied over a dark stain. Many finishes have an amber color, and thus appear to be less clear. The typical term used in the profession when looking for a clear finish is "water white." However, on wood such as red oak, or white oak, a yellowish finish may enhance the character of the wood and be aesthetically pleasing. When trying to attain a clear dark color, the best results come from a finish which has a high clarity.

Elasticity and Hardness - Wood is an elastic, natural material which moves constantly with changes in humidity and temperature. Finishes which are too brittle or inelastic, or become so over time, are not recommended for wood.

All information provided by the Architectural Woodwork Institute, Reston, Va. www.awinet.org, 703.733.0600.

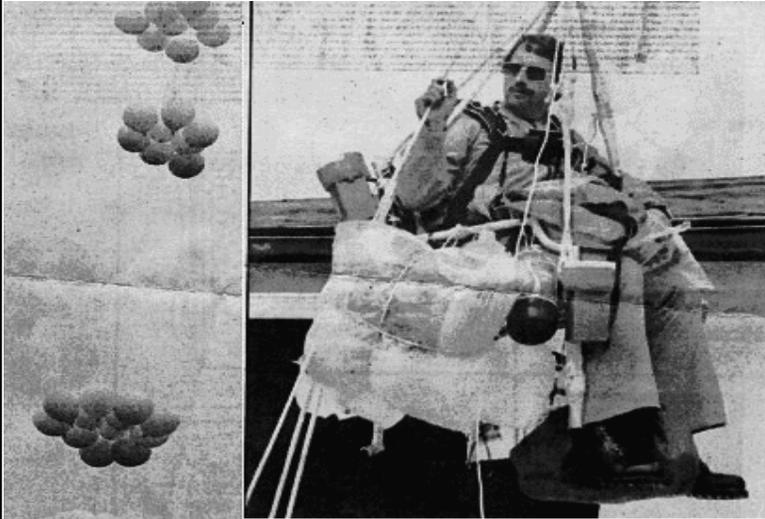
Federal Millwork Corporation is doubly pleased to have been involved in this project due to our long standing involvement with both the University of Miami and Duffey Construction. We have proudly supported UM Athletics as season ticket holders in football and basketball for more than twenty years. In addition, we have been privileged to work with General Contractor, Duffey Construction, throughout our mutually storied past which spans more than thirty-five years.

Compliments from all involved have been heaped upon Federal Millwork for which we are humbly proud. The project is being nominated for inclusion in the Design Solutions. The official Journal of the Architectural Woodwork Institute, Reston, Virginia.

Kudos to **Richard A. Ungerbuehler, Jr.**, Operations Manager, **Bill Coleman**, Foreman, and their team of craftsmen, **Paul Mowatt**, **Andrew Della-Cerra**, **Stephen Campbell**, **Ted Lynch**, and **Carlos Bidone**. **Victor Wacholder**, lead finisher, **Chris Green**, and **Tellis Boyd** all contributed their talents to the excellent finish applied, beautifully blending all the components into a magnificent finished product. The project was capably managed by Javier Mendez who was praised by the project superintendent for his steadfast determination to complete the project on time without compromising quality.

Richard A. Ungerbuehler, Sr.

Seemed like a neat idea at the time!



The Lawn Chair Man (true story)

Larry Walters went to the local Army-Navy surplus store and purchased 45 weather balloons and several tanks of helium. He securely strapped the balloons to his sturdy lawn chair and anchored

the chair to the bumper of his jeep and inflated the balloons with the helium. Larry packed several sandwiches and a six-pack of Miller Lite and loaded his pellet gun figuring he could pop a few balloons when it was time to descend. Larry's plan was to lazily float up to a height of about 30 feet above his back yard and come back down in a few hours. Things didn't quite work out for Larry. When he cut the cord anchoring the lawn chair to his jeep he streaked into the LA sky as if shot from a cannon. He didn't level off at 30 feet but 16,000 feet. At that height he couldn't risk shooting any of the balloons. So he stayed, there, drifting cold and frightened for more than 14 hours when he found himself in the primary approach corridor of LAX. A Pan Am pilot first spotted Larry. He radioed the tower and described passing a guy in a lawn chair...with a gun! Radar confirmed the existence of an object floating 16,000 feet above the airport. LAX emergency procedures swung into full alert and a helicopter was dispatched to investigate. The offshore breeze began to flow and carried Larry out to sea. Right on Larry's heels was the rescue helicopter. The helicopter ascended to a position several hundred feet above Larry and lowered a rescue line. Larry snagged the line, with which he was hauled back to shore. As soon as Larry was hauled to earth, he was arrested by waiting members of the LAPD for violating LAX airspace.

The big one that didn't get away!

Lyle Mathison, one of FMC's most beloved former partner/owner's, is now retired and spends his days without a care, save that he might get run over by a golf cart or lose his golf ball on the water hole. Welllllll ... one more potential water hole hazard wandered onto the 9th green a week or so ago. This is no joke. This 18 foot 2 inch gator was on the 9th hole construction area of the course that Lyle plays. He swears this is the real thing! Retirement can be dangerous!

Thanks Lyle... you are missed.



- **BIRTHDAY CORNER** -
Happy Birthday To You
MAY 2004
 Roger Kapatos (5/8)
 Larry Dringus (5/1)

Employment Anniversaries

Kay Ungerbuehler—11 years
 Ted Lynch—2 years

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