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Columbia Forest Products Introduces New Formaldehyde-Free Plywood

Greensboro, NC - Columbia Forest Products announces the introduction of DesignEdge™ multi-ply panels, made in North America with award-winning PureBond formaldehyde-free technology.

These new panels feature unique, visually arresting "thick and thin" inner ply layers that are exposed along on the edges. The result is a new sense of aesthetic beauty, drama and appeal that is visible from every angle – with no added formaldehyde. Among the many furniture, furnishing and fixture designs that benefit from the striking new look of DesignEdge panels are items like dining facility and coffee tables, bookcases, children's furniture and store fixtures, for starters. Decorative face options for DesignEdge panels include Columbia's hardwood veneer such as maple, oak and walnut. Or, if preferred, fabricators can lay up high pressure laminate on "blank" DesignEdge platforms, making the design possibilities for DesignEdge panels nearly limitless. DesignEdge panels are also ideal for presenting a fresh new look for drawer boxes used in kitchen cabinets, closet systems, entertainment centers, bedroom suites and other furniture and furnishings. Domestic Production . . . Visual Interest DesignEdge panels are manufactured in North America and are readily available for shipment and delivery. 4' x 8' panels are available in the following thicknesses:

? 1/2" ? 5/8" ? 3/4" Thanks to their unique combination hardwood ply core construction, the panels are practically void-free, thus minimizing reject rates and maximizing creativity. DesignEdge panels deliver excellent machinability and screw-holding characteristics. Their uniform construction means that fabrication is easy for finishing panel edges in a variety of eye-catching styles including flat, rounded and beveled edge treatments.

Fascinating carving effects can also be produced through the face, exposing the inner ply's in any number of interesting ways. Environmentally Advanced DesignEdge panels are a smart choice in ways that go well beyond achieving a stunning look along with smooth fabrication. Like all other Columbia products made with PureBond® formaldehyde-free technology, DesignEdge panels are CARB Exempt, CARB Phase 2 compliant and LEED EQ 4.4 Compliant. In fact, they test below 0.05 for formaldehyde emissions and contain no added urea formaldehyde. DesignEdge panels can also be supplied as FSC® Certified product, allowing for chain-of-custody traceability to responsibly managed forestlands while contributing towards the MR 7 certified wood credit in LEED project work. Todd Vogelsinger, director of marketing for Columbia Forest Products, commented, "With DesignEdge, we're offering a new formaldehyde-free twist



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on the exposed-edge look. It's a great option for designers who want to achieve a fresh, contemporary feel while working with domestically-harvested and assembled hardwood materials," he said.

"They can treat the edges any number of creative ways, and can lay up high pressure laminate surfaces on DesignEdge panels -- which underscores the limitless possibilities present with this material," Vogelsinger added. Judson Beaumont, owner of Straight Line Designs, a Vancouver, Canada-based custom fabricator of fine furniture and cabinetry, is one of the first craftspeople to work with the new DesignEdge product. "It's an absolutely wonderful, versatile material that provides new ways for us to design creations that are a fresh departure from the norm," Beaumont observed. "Equally important, the panels are well-constructed, they're easy to work with, and they machine beautifully." Beaumont added, "I feel very comfortable about working with this material and not having to worry about exposing myself, my shop employees or my customers to formaldehyde fumes. That's becoming a bigger issue, but with DesignEdge plywood made with PureBond, it's not a concern." DesignEdge multi-ply panels are available through a network of wholesale distributor outlets, and built into quality custom cabinetry, furniture and fixtures from Columbia Forest Product's PureBond Fabricator Network™. The PFN comprises over 850 experienced craftsmen, cabinet shops and fabrication businesses across North America that use DesignEdge panels and other PureBond hardwood plywood in their finished products.

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