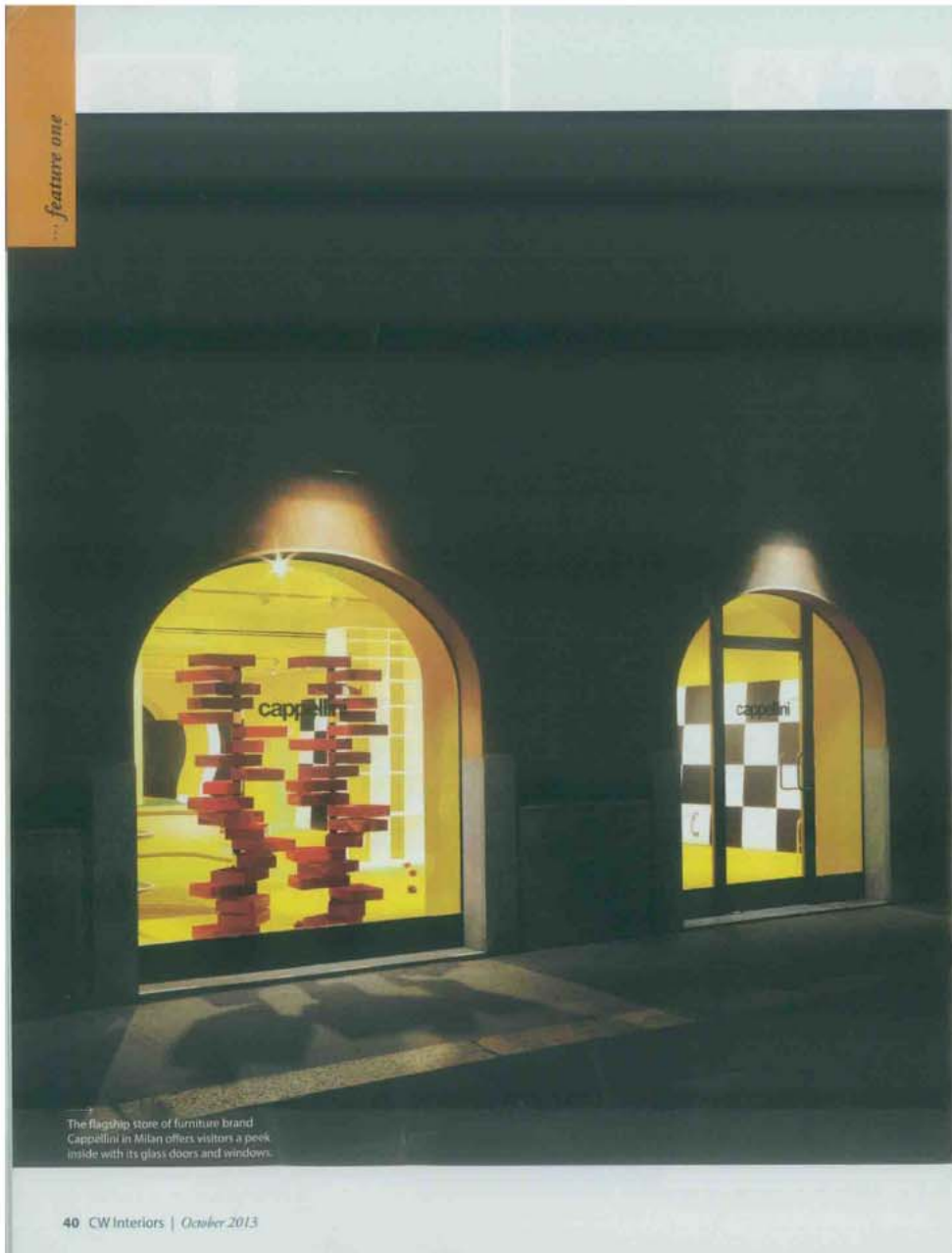
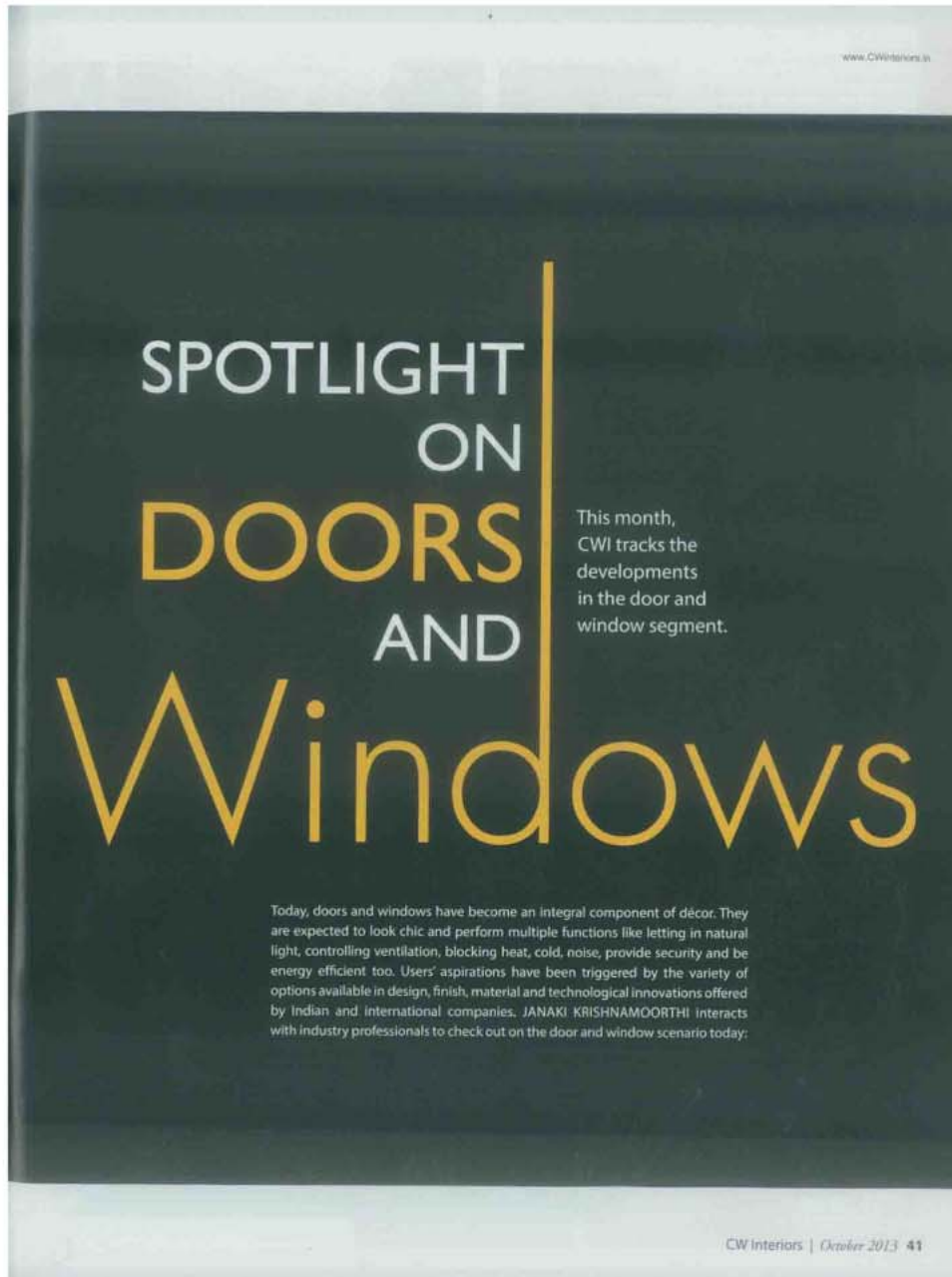


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SPOTLIGHT ON DOORS AND Windows

This month,
CWI tracks the
developments
in the door and
window segment.

Today, doors and windows have become an integral component of décor. They are expected to look chic and perform multiple functions like letting in natural light, controlling ventilation, blocking heat, cold, noise, provide security and be energy efficient too. Users' aspirations have been triggered by the variety of options available in design, finish, material and technological innovations offered by Indian and international companies. JANAKI KRISHNAMOORTHY interacts with industry professionals to check out on the door and window scenario today.

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Rich in aesthetics and highly functional, this swing gate from GAPL is built with an anti-crushing safety feature.

Elegant, safe motorised garage doors are available at Gandhi Automations in multiple colour options.



Automatic Avenues

Gandhi Automations Pvt Ltd (GAPL) is one of India's leading entrance automation companies with ISO 9001-2008 certification. The company's Director, Samir Gandhi, traces the evolution of entrance automation systems in India.

Q How have entrance automation systems evolved in India?

The entrance automation system is relatively new in India. Automation systems are being used widely in India in industrial, logistics and commercial segments like malls, shops etc. They can be used in residential premises too, but it is less common. Many people are also using motorised doors for their garages.

Q Please list some of GAPL's innovative products...

We have motorised sliding doors/gates, swing doors/gates, folding doors and motorised garage doors. We have automatic swing systems and automatic sliding doors that slide horizontally and linearly with sensor or control mat and safety signage. Our automatic folding doors have two or more separate panels – one panel swings, and other panel slides in a guide.

Sliding doors are suitable in any architectural context such as this one from GAPL for commercial premises.



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Filmy Funda

Auto Sonics (India) are exclusive partners of Hanita Coatings in India for their energy efficient and safety-compliant window film solutions. **Jyoti Devjani, Director, Auto Sonics**, speaks on the usage pattern and benefits of window films.

Hanita Coatings' energy-efficient window films are available in neutral colours that make it ideal for any project.

Q How popular are window films in India?

Architectural window film is still a growing segment in India. The increasing use of glass in buildings and the growing awareness in the industry towards greener and safer environments are the key promoting factors for the use of window films. While solar control window films are used by some like the IT sector and other environmentally conscious companies, safety films are used by consulates, airports and hotels.

34 per cent less cooling time required for air-conditioning, reduction in light pollution, protection against UV rays, low investment and very high return on investment. Safety Zone window films adhere to the interior of the glass to transform the most vulnerable areas into a more secure environment, minimising the threat of glass related injury.

Q What are the advantages of window films?

Applying the right Solar Zone window film on existing glass can enhance the sustainability and energy performance like reduction in energy bills by 20 to 30 per cent; reduction in solar heat gain by up to 80 per cent;

Q What product does Hanita offer in window films in India and what are their special features?

Hanita's SolarZone architectural window films range includes reflective, dual-reflective, clear, spectrally selective and speciality films. Hanita has also developed a turnkey solution to upgrade commercial glazing – the SolarZone Energy Efficiency Program. The SafetyZone films provide protection against breakage, accidents, flying shards, etc.



Hardware Hits

The Neki Group offers an extensive range of architectural hardware products ranging from handles, door knobs, locks to hinges, door closers etc. **Sohil Mistry, Director, Neki Group**, provides an insight into the hardware segment.

Q How has the hardware market changed in the last decade?

The hardware industry is experimenting with new designs and products. Handrail systems have become a part of all major residential projects to accentuate the design aesthetics. Stainless steel has become a preferred material choice owing to its durability.

products. Made of corrosion-resistant high quality stainless steel (316 grade) with seamless design and clear vision, this system is extremely safe due to the load bearing capacity of the bracket, and precision installation by our trained workforce.



Q What innovative product has Neki launched recently?

Side bracket railing system with glass is one of the recently introduced innovative



NEKI's designer handles and stainless steel lever handles lend a touch of glamour to high-end residential doors.

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...feature one

Material Makeover

Asahi India Glass Ltd (AIGL) offers a wide spectrum of glass solutions and UPVC window solutions. **Sanjeev Oberoi, Executive Director – Sales & Marketing, AIGL**, speaks on options in glass and window solutions.

Asahi India's solar control glass window solution for a residential project in Mumbai cuts down heat.

Q What are UPVC windows and what are their plus points?

UPVC windows are made from polyvinyl chloride resin and come with high quality surface finish, soft-contoured profiles, and a variety of styles. They are also tough, durable and have high levels of resistance to oxidation, chemical exposure and sunlight, which makes them virtually maintenance-free. They provide high sound attenuation of up to 42 decibels and have high thermal insulation properties, helping save energy costs. Ideal for all weather conditions, they are also extremely tough.

Q What are AIGL's innovative new products?

AIS VUE is the new range of UPVC window solutions. From profiles to glass installation and support, AIS VUE is a complete solution that includes Eco VUE (energy-saving), Silent VUE (noise-cancelling), Safe VUE (safety glass) and GuardVUE (burglar-proof).

Glass with integrated blinds is another new product that brings together blinds and glass in one single, integrated unit with remote control operation. Our other innovative products include switchable glass that can be turned from transparent to translucent with the press of a button, glass with view-control film, which changes from transparent to translucent depending on viewing angles.



A luxury hotel in Delhi has opted for AIS Silent VUE to provide a tranquil ambience for guests by keeping the din out.

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Among Fenesta's elaborate range of window solutions, customers can opt for custom-made, innovative window solutions for a personalised touch.



Going Green

Fenesta Building Systems (FBS) is one of India's largest providers of door and window solutions, having installed more than a million windows/doors in more than two lakh homes. Alex Murphy, President, FBS, speaks on 'windows' role in décor and green buildings.

Q Is the industry moving towards energy-efficient products for windows?

Due to increasing inclination towards green buildings, there is a clear shift towards UPVC windows. As pioneers of UPVC windows in India, Fenesta has been the leading supplier of green windows.

Q What factors should be taken into consideration before arriving at a door/window solution for new and old buildings?

Before arriving on a door/window solution, one must know the challenges that the area poses – like noise, pollution, weather conditions, apart from design requirements. In old buildings, assessment of the building and the space which requires new windows/doors is critical. All existing problems that may affect the new window/door solution must be rectified first before new solutions are implemented.

Q What are Fenesta's innovative products on offer?

Fenesta recently launched the villa windows, an India-specific solution. These windows integrate the traditional Indian window design of grill and mesh with UPVC. Fenesta's other innovative products include special windows for heavy torrential rains, where a clip-on rain track fitted to the windows acts like a dam and prevents rainwater from seeping inside; windows with a special hurricane bar that imparts additional strength to withstand high wind speeds. In high rises, special UPVC blend to withstand strong UV radiations.

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Shifting Styles

Doors & Doors Systems (I) is a one-stop shop for a contemporary range of doors, windows, specialised hardware fittings and accessories with an ISO 9001:2008 certification. The company's **Managing Director, Captain Edwin Saldanha**, speaks on changing styles and designs in doors/windows.

Q What significant changes have taken place in window/door solutions with regard to design, material, and colour in India?

In design, profiles have become slim; large panels which can withstand high wind pressure are in. In materials, aluminium, UPVC, wood or wood aluminium and stainless steel are in vogue. Wood aluminium and stainless steel are applied in very high-end projects.



Doors & Doors' window solution are also ideal for high-rise buildings that need to withstand high wind pressure on uppermost floors.

Q What products are on offer from your company?

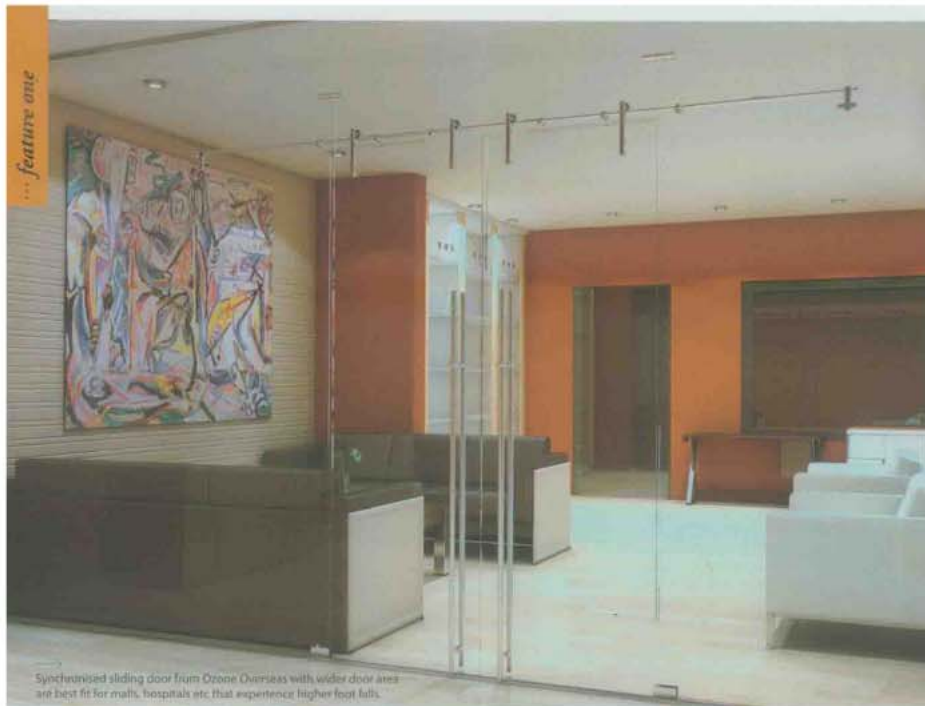
We offer door and window solutions in aluminium, UPVC, wood, wood aluminium and stainless steel with high degree of safety and aesthetic appeal. We also have locks and fittings to match the system, handles, stainless steel handle set, concealed door closing systems, fire and burglar-resistant and bullet proof doors.



Doors and Doors offer custom-made windows solutions that blend with all architectural features and materials.

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... feature one

Synchronised sliding door from Ozone Overseas with wider door area are best fit for malls, hospitals etc. that experience higher foot falls.

Residential Reality

Instawall Aluminium, authorised franchisee for Eternia aluminium windows, also offers a wide range of doors and allied accessories. Sachin Shetty, Marketing Manager, Instawall, talks about residential buyers' perceptions.

Q What changes have taken place in buyers' perception with regard to windows for homes?

Buyers have become very selective. Today, they can choose from window options like sliding, casement, folding, tilt and turn and so on. Perceptions differ between regions – for instance, residents in South India prefer small windows while large windows are a rage in Mumbai and adjoining areas.

Q What products are offered by Instawall in this segment?

We offer Eternia aluminium windows with Italian design, made from Hindalco quality

aluminium which ensures high strength and durability. We also have doors and related hardware/accessories and provide customised solutions too.

Q Apart from the aesthetics, what other features and materials are in demand?

Noise control and maintenance-free solutions are the other demands. Aluminium is the most preferred material as it is designed to suit all climatic conditions.

Instawall's large span window solutions for a residential project ensure occupants stay closer to nature.



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Hardware Hot tips

A global brand and a leader in the hardware domain, **Ozone Overseas** provides advanced architectural hardware solutions with over 3000 products. The company's **Managing Director, Alok Aggarwal**, shares some facts.

Q How has the hardware for doors and windows in India changed in recent years?

Doors and windows are no longer just a basic security element. They are a greater part of interior and exterior aesthetics. Hence, new materials for doors and windows have come into play to match the customers' aspirations. To keep up with this trend, the hardware industry too has been creating innovative products. The typical hardware has now become designer hardware with enhanced aesthetic value and functionality.

Q What are the latest technologically innovative products in the hardware segment?

Internationally, manufacturers offer hardware to enhance the aesthetics of spaces with technologically advanced features such as automatic operation, energy conservation, space saving etc. Concealed floor springs, digital technology for door locks, automated curtains and roller blinds are the latest technologically innovative products abroad and in India.

Q How important is quality of hardware in doors and windows?

Quality of hardware plays a vital role in the functionality, durability and aesthetic appeal of a door or window. Hardware, being the most functional element, can cause accidents and other damages if it is of inferior quality. Badly designed hardware can be an eyesore.

Q What products do you offer in India in this segment?

Ozone offers a wide range of products for different types of doors. Concealed floor spring for glass and wooden doors is our latest innovation. We have different types of floor springs for swing doors based on door weight, size and application, such as single cylinder floor spring, double cylinder floor spring, power adjustable floor spring and transom closer. Ozone also offers automatic doors of different types – swings doors, semi-automatic doors and automatic sliding doors. An extensive collection of door handles, patch fittings, door locks and other accessories are also available.



Ozone Overseas double swing door with double cylinder floor spring mechanism ensures smooth movement year after year.

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...feature one

Photo: Anagata Sharma | India Series | Courtesy: Mumbai Furniture Association

Casement, sliding windows offer flexibility, proper ventilation and help frame picturesque views outside.

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Customer Choices

Technocrat Security Systems are manufacturers of entrance automation systems including doors, gates and shutters. **Director Nitin Munot** speaks on changes and customer preferences in entrance automation.

Q What major changes are happening in entrance automation systems and where is it widely used?

With changing times and requirements, the size of the automatic sliding door operator is reducing but at the same time its weight carrying capacity is increasing. In India, entrance automation is being widely used in airport, malls, theatres, hospitals etc.

Among these, hospitals prefer hermetically sealed doors, particularly for their operation theatres. Public places like airports and malls demand insulated doors for negative temperature and break-out sliding doors, where the door leaves are fitted with break-out fittings enabling the door to be pushed open in case of emergency, thus facilitating quick evacuation.

Q What products do you offer in this segment?

In entrance automation we provide curved, sliding, swing and revolving doors as also aircraft hangar doors. We also provide automatic gate systems from sliding, swing to cantilever and telescopic gates.

Evidently, design and technology have ushered in an era of elegant high-performance doors and windows into India that address not only the aesthetic and quality issues but also security and environmental concerns.

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