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 decor. 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. JAWAD KUSHRAMOORTHI interarts with industry professionals to check out on the door and window scenario today.
Automatic Avenues

Gandhi Automation Pvt. Ltd. (GAPl) is one of India’s leading entrance automation companies with ISO 9001:2008 certification. The company’s Director, Sanir 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, logistic 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, folding doors and motorised garage doors. We have Automatic swing systems and automatic sliding doors that slide horizontally and linearly with sensor or control panel and safety dog legs. 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.
Filmy Funda

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

Q How popular are window films in India?
Architectural window film is 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 consumers, airports and hotels.

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 Solar Zone architectural window films range includes reflective, dual reflective, clear, spectrally selective and specialty films. Hanita has also developed a unique solution to upgrade commercial glazing – the SolarZone Energy Efficiency Program. The SolarZone films provide protection against breakage, scratches, flying shards, etc.

Hardware Hits

The Neiki Group offers an extensive range of architectural hardware products ranging from handles, door knobs, locks to hinges, bolts, door closers etc. Sohil Mistry, Director, Neiki 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. Hardware systems have become a part of all major residential projects to inculcate the design aesthetics. Stainless steel has become a preferred material choice owing to its durability.

Q What innovative product has Neiki launched recently?
Side bracket railing system with glass is one of the recently introduced innovative products. Made of corrosion-resistant high-quality stainless steel (316 grade) with seamless design and clean vision, this system is extremely safe due to the load-bearing capacity of the bracket, and precision installation by our trained workforce.

NDC's designer handles and stainless steel towel handles lend a touch of glamour to high-end residential doors.
Material Makeover

Aashi 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.

Q: What are UPVC windows and what are their plus points?
UPVC windows are made from polyvinyl chloride exist 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?
AIG VUE is the new range of UPVC window solutions. From profiles to glass installation and support, AIG VUE is a complete solution that includes Eco VUE (energy-saving), Silent VUE (noise-cancelling), Suite VUE (safety glaze) 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 AIG Silent VUE to provide a tranquil ambience for guests by keeping the din out.
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: What factors should be taken into consideration before arriving at a door/window solution for new and old buildings?

A: Before arriving at 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 heavily ventilated areas, where a slip-on rain trunk fitted to the window 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-rise, special UPVC rated to withstand strong UV radiations.
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 Siddha, 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 pressures 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.

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 sets, concealed door closing systems, fire and burglary-resistant and bullet proof doors.

Doors and Doors offer custom made window solutions that blend with all architectural features and materials.
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, linting, tilt and turn and so on. Perceptions differ between regions – for instance, residentia 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 Italian 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 open window solutions for a residential project ensure occupants enjoy lighter totally.

Synthetic sliding door from Gama Gertrude with under door seal and set by lip for rails. Kamprath et al; that experience higher look alike.
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: What are the latest technologically innovative products in the hardware segment?

Intelligent 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 available in India.

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 the 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: 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 – swing doors, semi-automatic doors and automatic sliding doors. An extensive collection of door handles, patch fittings, door locks and other accessories are also available.
Customer Choices

Technocrest 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 airports, 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 carrioliner 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.