

## Ferche Decorator Series



Last month we announced the addition of “the Next Generation” into our popular Decorator Series lineup of mouldings. As with the 4 families of mouldings in the original offering, these mouldings are all designed for the discriminating homeowner who appreciates the ease with which they can achieve architectural correctness and fine design

in their interior moulding package. The latest series works extremely well as a paintable trim or with finer grained woods like cherry or hard maple. You will notice that this new group of mouldings is sized generously to be used in rooms with higher ceilings and more square footage. If you haven't seen the brochure with the new designs, contact us and we'll send some out.

## Ferche Plant Tour



Many of you have been to Ferche Millwork in Rice, Minnesota to see our facility and how it is that we do what we do. Others may not have been fortunate enough to experience our plant first-hand. So, let's take a virtual tour of our facility and see just how we make half a million feet of moulding per day. If the virtual tour raises your level of interest to where you would like to see our facility first-hand, call Gerald, Charlie or Steve at 320-393-5700 to set up a time for your whole crew to come visit. (cont'd next column)

(Plant Tour cont'd)

### Air Drying Yard



Ferche also has a lumber concentration yard in Mt. Pleasant Tennessee. Because of the importance properly dried lumber has in producing a quality moulding, it has kilns in both locations, capable of drying over one million board feet of lumber every 2 weeks.

### Rough Mill



Back in Minnesota, the Rough Mill is the production center which turns rough lumber into surfaced, planed blanks with defects removed, ready to be manufactured into finished goods. The line is controlled

with optical scanners and computers which determine how each board will be cut in order to yield defect-free blanks with optimal results. The process also involves the capture of pieces too small to be used for mouldings, which can be finger-jointed together and manufactured into core material for veneered products.



### High Speed Moulders



We match the size of the moulding run to the capabilities of the moulder. Some moulders require more time to set up, but are able to produce a quality finish at a high rate of speed. Many of our standard products are manufactured in our high speed moulding work center where we may run 10,000 to 50,000 lineal feet of a profile. These are mouldings which we sell in large quantities, often referred to as “commodity” items.

### Short-Run Moulders



The nature of how we produce solid mouldings has changed over the last several years. We currently are running a higher percentage of mouldings for a specific house or job, often in a species other than red oak.

These orders then by their very nature will require more set-ups with shorter runs, requiring a moulder that matches these requirements. Also, customers are taking more advantage of our custom capabilities, running basically any new pattern in any quantity in any specie. The moulders we use in these situations run at one fourth the speed of a high speed production moulder, but because the set-up time is one fourth that of a high speed moulder, there is an overall economy in using these quick-change moulders.

### Flat Veneer Line



For years, the only way we manufactured any veneered product was on this line. In this process we apply solid lumber edge strips to a substrate, apply glue, place a flat sheet of veneer on the surface and under heat and pressure, cure the panel. The veneer remains flat, and, if required, a profile is moulded into the solid edge strip. The substrate or

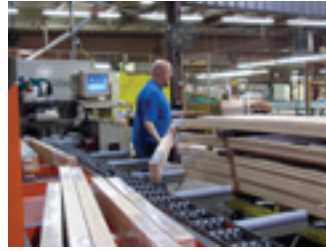
core can be one of many options, including fingerjointed solid lumber, particle board, medium density fiberboard (MDF) or other engineered panel. This work center manufactures jambs, skirtboards, veneered boards and veneered base. These veneered products provide a cost competitive alternative to solid lumber products as well as providing 16' and 18' lengths of products in unlimited quantities.

### Wrapped Veneer Line



Ferche has another veneer work center which specializes in the production of veneered jambs. In contrast to the other veneer line, these jambs have veneers which wrap around the edge, giving the face and edge a continuous and uniform look. These wrapped jambs are the most cost competitive that we offer.

### Employees and Quality



These work centers produce the materials delivered to our customers' doors. The work center is a place where the product creation takes place, but it's the people who control the equipment and monitor the process that ensure the high standard of Ferche quality products. Through the years Ferche has implemented a number of quality control measures - statistical process control to monitor key aspects of the product through various stages of processing; use of go/no-go gauges to verify tolerances; weekly department reviews to discuss corrective measures on problems or potential problems related to product or process; introduction of a quality metric at the individual level; implementation and commitment to a continuous improvement process through projects across the plant; and, a strong safety program with employee involvement from all departments which makes everyone's duties safer, easier and more efficient.

Gerald Grider has oftentimes referred to our production process as the "art" of making mouldings, or, "crafting" of moulded products. This makes the point that no matter how good the machinery, or advanced the technology, it's the "tweak" here, the pressure there, the keen eye at the appropriate times, and, a desire to make a product to be proud of, that makes all the difference. And to that, we say thank you, and, job well done to the employees who are part of the process - crafting wood into art.

