

CONTRACTOR

THE NEWSMAGAZINE OF MECHANICAL CONTRACTING



Above, the front of Eden Elementary. Below, the PM with a tech.



Above, the exterior, showing the four wings of the school. Below, three Bradford White water heaters.



Vrabel installs quick response DHW system with minimal piping

GIBSONIA, PA. — The Eden Hall Elementary School just north of Pittsburgh is one of six schools in the 4,500-student Pine Richland School District. With classrooms and facilities for more than its current 1,076 students, Eden Elementary was built to accommodate the influx of families drawn in by the recent real-estate boom in the rural North Hills area.

Vrabel Plumbing won the bid to install plumbing and hot water systems at the new, \$32 million, 189,000-sq-ft. elementary school, and no wonder; the company specializes almost exclusively in schools and municipal work.

"It's pretty much all we do," said Artie Maynard, who was project manager for the Eden Elementary job. "It's our niche — we do mostly new construction and some renovation, but service and repair counts for a very small percentage of our work."

Vrabel Plumbing has been in business 35 years. Headquartered here, the company's service area includes Pitts-

► Turn to Vrabel, page 30

Home is designated to attain LEED Platinum, net-zero status

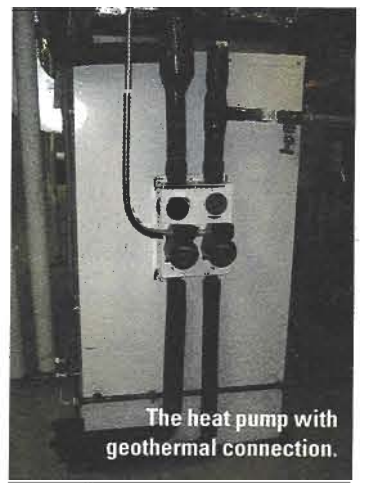
BY CANDACE ROULO
OF CONTRACTOR'S STAFF

CHICAGO — When Michael Yannell decided to build a new home for himself in Ravenswood, a north side neighborhood of Chicago, he wanted his home to be revered as a sustainable residential building standard, which will most likely achieve U.S. Green Building Council LEED Platinum certification and net-zero energy status, meaning the home will produce more en-

ergy than what it consumes.

When planning the house design — the house sits on a 5,413-sq-ft. lot, is 2,675-sq-ft. and has a footprint of 1,770-sq-ft. — and mechanical systems with Farr Associates, designer, and Goldberg General Contracting Inc., Chicago, AA Service Company, heating and cooling contractor, Northbrook, Ill., and dbHMS, design and building engineer, Willow Springs, Ill., Yannell focused

► Turn to LEED, page 6



The heat pump with geothermal connection.

Recession is good for you

BY ROBERT P. MADER
OF CONTRACTOR'S STAFF

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO. — The recession can be good for you, especially if you have decent credit and some cash in the bank, members of the Quality Service Contractors learned here.

"We're still here, maybe making less money but leaner and meaner for the experience," author and columnist Gene Marks told the contrac-

► Turn to Recession, page 28

CONTRACTOR INFOCUS

Residential and Nonresidential Building Construction Forecast



IN THIS ISSUE

News

3 BIM aids Marelich Mech. with floor project
Marelich Mech. builds out lab floor at UCSF.

3 Initiative would strengthen trade programs
President Barack Obama speaks about the AGI.

3 Solar Decathlon set for mid-Oct.
University students compete in the 2009 Decathlon.

Yates on Plumbing

55 Public restroom pressure woes.

Eatherton on Hydronics

58 Adventures at Hydronicahh — Part 3.

Feidman on Technology

62 Programs that put power in your pocket.

Feature

44

A Port in the Storm
During turbulent times, franchises offer help.

Products

81 The DVD-Pak monitor and DVDBase

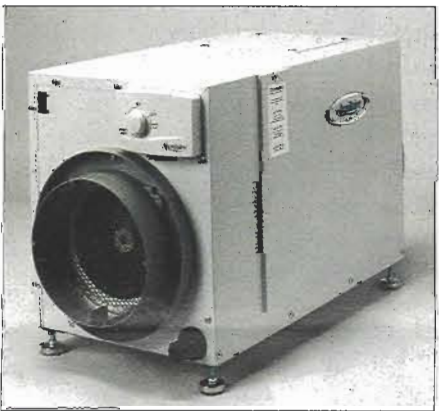


contractormag.com
news
archives
products
columns
directories
calendar
classifieds



▲ **THE POWER-VEE AUTOMATIC FEED DRAIN CLEANER** now has a simplified feeding system that's lighter and easier to operate. The cable feeds at a rate up to 16' per second. It easily unclogs sink, toilet, shower or laundry drains ranging from 1 1/4" to 3" diameter and at a distance of up to 50'.

General Pipe Cleaners
CIRCLE 121 ON INQUIRY CARD



▲ **THE MODEL 1730A 65-PINT DEHUMIDIFIER** is compact and easy to install. It features a backflow damper, HVAC blower control, adjustable outlet to top or side, drain pan and living space control. It weighs just 65 lb.

Aprilaire
CIRCLE 122 ON INQUIRY CARD



▲ **THIS HEAVY-DUTY TOOL BENCH** is constructed with reinforced steel. It features leg levelers, a full-width lower shelf, and durable swivel casters. The powder coat paint finish protects against corrosion, and it is available in 22 signature colors.

Shure
CIRCLE 123 ON INQUIRY CARD

▼ **THIS STEAM SHOWER SYSTEM** uses approximately one gallon of water during a 20-minute session. It features a fast start-up time and is energy efficient. The water tank and outer enclosure of the steam generator are constructed of stainless steel for durability and corrosion resistance. Options include an aromatic oils system, mood lighting, and an autoflush system that drains the steam generator after every use.

Mr. Steam
CIRCLE 124 ON INQUIRY CARD



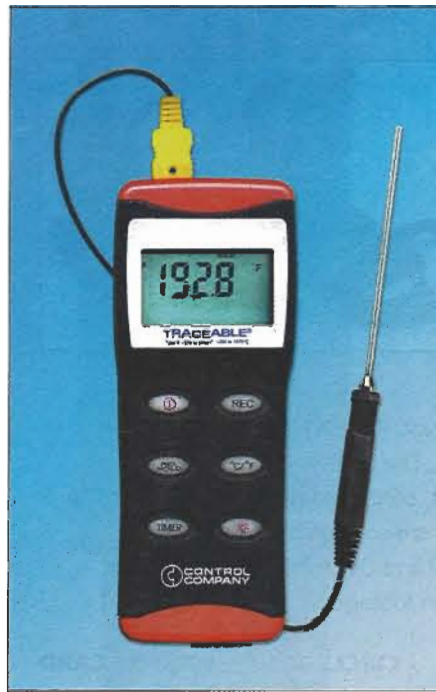
▼ **NAVIGATOR LEAD-FREE THERMOSTATIC MIXING VALVES** are certified by IAPMO, and are fully compliant with current lead-free legislation, including California's CA AB 1953. Each valve is constructed of lead-free brass and stainless steel. Designed to regulate water temperature within a set point, these valves are pre-assembled and factory tested.

Bradley
CIRCLE 125 ON INQUIRY CARD



▼ **PECO FLEXIBLE COUPLINGS** are designed for use in hazardous locations. They are constructed from bronze braided brass tubing with an arc-resistant liner. The couplings include two female threaded end fittings with male nipple inserts. They are ideal for use in tight spaces where difficult bends are needed. They allow the safe joining of stationary equipment to machinery that moves or vibrates.

Adalet
CIRCLE 126 ON INQUIRY CARD



▲ **THE TRACEABLE MEMORY WIDE-RANGE THERMOMETER** has a temperature range from -328°F to 2,498°F (-200°C to 1,370°C). Resolution is 0.1 from -328°F to 990°F (-200°C to 640°C) and is otherwise 1°. A supplied stainless steel, triple-purpose type-K thermocouple probe may be used to measure temperatures of liquids, air/gas and semisolids. The large LCD screen is easy to read, and backlit for use in low-light areas. Minimum and maximum readings may be recalled instantly.

Control Co.
CIRCLE 127 ON INQUIRY CARD



▲ **THE T775 SERIES 2000 ELECTRONIC STANDALONE CONTROLLER** now has a continuous pump option for boiler applications. It can help save energy by continuously operating the boiler pump when below the adjustable warm weather shut down temperature. Other enhancements include more digital input options for set points, an override feature and domestic hot water on demand.

Honeywell
CIRCLE 128 ON INQUIRY CARD

▼ **THE MARBLYTE CONTOUR DRINKING FOUNTAIN** is a vandal-resistant bi-level model designed for use in educational facilities. Manufactured from a premium, non-porous solid-surface material, it is durable and easy to maintain. Features include a heavy-duty bubbler and an easy-to-operate large push button. The protective bottom cover plates are made of stainless steel.

Halsey Taylor
CIRCLE 129 ON INQUIRY CARD



▼ **THE STRONG ARM BRACKETING SYSTEM** is designed for bracketing PEX tubing. Used along with the company's PEX Bend Lock Blocks, installers can now stub out PEX tubing easily and securely.

Sioux Chief
CIRCLE 130 ON INQUIRY CARD



▼ **THE M20+ PRESSING MACHINE** has a compact design, only about the size of cordless drill. It uses industry-standard fittings to make solder-less joints in copper, stainless steel and PEX tubing. It has a fast cycle time, needing only four seconds to create a high-strength connection, and interchangeable jaw inserts for quick, easy changeout between different sizes of tubing. The tool uses a mechanical drive with fewer moving parts than a hydraulic system, making it easy to calibrate and maintain.

Stanley Virax
CIRCLE 131 ON INQUIRY CARD

