

September 1997. MEI currently operates a fully integrated zirconium chemicals manufacturing facility at Flemington and a smaller zircon processing plant at Aspers, Pa.

Sculptured Tile



Sculptured tile and an artistic iris mural are striking accents on the backsplashes and countertop edges of this kitchen. (Photo courtesy of Summitville Tile Inc., Summitville, Ohio)

OSU Gets High Rating

An Ohio State University program placed third in a reputation-ranking poll conducted by the Ohio Science & Technology Council. A variety of manufacturing organizations and research centers participated in the poll to determine which Ohio manufacturing technology providers had been most helpful.

OSU's Engineering Research Center (ERC) for Net Shape Manufacturing (NSM) at Columbus, Ohio, was the only university to make the list of the top six organizations. Results from the survey will be used to influence the direction and amount of state funding for manufacturing technology centers.

The ERC/NSM conducts engineering research and education in manufacturing processes. It is an intellectual partnership between the National Science Foundation, OSU and more than 80 manufacturing companies.

The center's research is directed at reducing development time for new processes by eliminating trial and error. Through computer-aided techniques, material flow is predicted as a part is shaped in a die to eliminate defects and increase product quality. Such techniques also aid dimensional

accuracy and complex part forming.

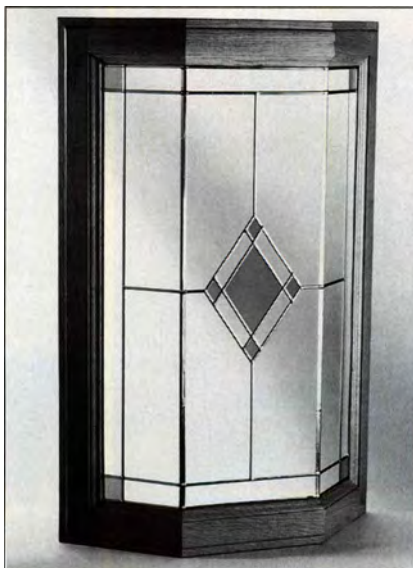
Using manufacturing processes, tooling and machinery, the center's mission is to educate and train students, and assist companies in implementing new processes that will improve quality and increase global competitiveness.

Production Costs Cut on Decorative Glass

Esquire Glass Ltd., Manchester, U.K., has developed a new method of manufacturing glass components for the decorative glass furniture industry. The process can be used to create stained glass, marbling and other complementary effects using a single piece of glass. Production costs are cut drastically without compromising esthetics or quality.

Esquire simulates the desired finish onto the glass rather than using individual glass pieces to reach the same effect. In addition, the glass can incorporate other finishes such as simulated beveled edging and any style of textured glass.

To finish it off, leading—either metallic, pastel-colored or traditional with soldered joints—is added. The company also has devised a method of glazing, e.g. cupboard doors, without the need for furniture manufacturers to fit the glass themselves.



Esquire specializes in manufacturing glass doors for kitchen units.

MMPA Scholars Program

The Magnetic Materials Producers Association (MMPA) is accepting applications for its Scholars Program. The program provides two \$5000 awards to individuals doing graduate

Business Stats

CLAY CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS

	Production	Shipments	US\$N
Brick (000 Equivalents)*			
1996			
1st Qtr*	1,496,798	1,389,041	219
2nd Qtr	1,836,651	2,073,924	343
1995			
1st Qtr	1,781,867	1,488,339	229
2nd Qtr	1,838,462	1,761,471	280
Tile (000 ft ²)			
Floor & Wall*			
1996			
1st Qtr*	135,843	137,966	168
2nd Qtr	152,537	156,558	193
1995			
1st Qtr	151,688	146,262	172
2nd Qtr	157,868	160,518	180
Clay Pipe & Fittings (short tons) [†]			
1996			
1st Qtr	19,145	21,343	6
2nd Qtr	29,305	42,101	14
1995			
1st Qtr	36,134	26,239	6
2nd Qtr	46,176	37,068	10

*10-25% of each item is estimated
 †26-50% of each item is estimated
 ‡Revised

FLAT GLASS

	Production (m ft ²)*	Shipments (m ft ²)*	Value US\$M*
1996			
1st Qtr	1,320	1,309	471
2nd Qtr	1,334	1,394	483
1995			
1st Qtr	1,398	1,363	503
2nd Qtr	1,441	1,301	474

*11-19% of this item is estimated

Source of Statistics: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

For additional information, please contact the Ceramic Information Center 614/794-5810