In’s and out’s of what’s trending in cypress

Manufacturers of southern cypress building products are quite busy these days. The uniquely versatile wood is attracting new customers from all over the country who are discovering how cypress' inherent beauty and natural durability can be utilized in a variety of applications for homes and offices—inside and out.

“We've been experiencing high demand for cypress products so far this year,” says Stephen Logue of Battle Lumber Wadley, Ga. “Both Select and #2 Common grades have been noticeably more popular than in previous years. I believe a lot of this interest is due to the strong housing market right now, and cypress is in a prime position to capitalize on it, probably more so than any other species since it's well suited for interiors and exteriors. We fully expect the increased demand for cypress to continue throughout 2018.”

Nancy Tuck of Gates Milling, Gatesville, N.C., agrees and says cypress is filling a void in the market. “With the rising prices of western red cedar and Douglas fir, cypress is an excellent, affordably priced alternative,” she says. “I get a lot of calls from people asking about cypress and its availability, specifically in areas of the country that are predominantly cedar territory.

“Cypress offers a lot of visual character through its grain pattern and knot structure that can't be replicated with other species or faux wood products. We are finding that more and more homeowners and design professionals are turning to it for interior uses. ‘Ship-lap’ is a buzzword we hear a lot these days and consumers seem to favor the look of shiplap paneling and accent walls with a nickel-sized gap separating the boards, especially in wider, 8-inch profiles.”

In Homerville, Ga., Brian Meier of Cypress Rose Sawmill says he's noticing another new trend. “In our area, cypress paneling that is wire brushed to create a textured, industrial look is popular in both residential and commercial applications,” he notes. “It's perfect for adding a decorative touch that people haven't seen before.”

Geoff Chick, an architect based in Santa Rosa Beach, Fl., has built a reputation for creating impressive interiors with cypress.

“I love the look of cypress and how it performs,” Chick says. “I have used it for walls, ceilings and more recently as sliding barn doors, which are in demand for interiors. In large rooms where I have tall ceilings to work with, I typically use a coffered ceiling. Filling in the coffers with wood helps to warm up a room and add another layer of detail. Cypress with a square groove is my favorite wood to use for ceiling treatments. I just love how it looks, especially combined with cypress beams.”

For more info on cypress building products, visit www.cypressinfo.org.