The old saying, “Here today, gone tomorrow,” refers to just about every aspect of our world. It covers once-popular entertainers, fads, politicians, clothing styles and business trends. Catch phrases such as “New and Improved,” “Maximum Strength” and “Unique and Innovative” show the trend toward improving and building upon older ideas.

It only seems fitting that in a time when older products and ideas are being re-evaluated, improved and built upon, we would also need to revise this cliche as well. The phrase would be improved to the more accurate, “Here today gone today.”

It could not be more true than in the area of construction tools and products. The following is only a sampling of the newest items to hit the market. Although diverse in design and function, they all serve to accomplish the same goal—to make your next job easier, quicker and safer than ever before.

Fry Reglet has developed a soffit vent designed to reduce installation time and eliminate clean-up costs for EIFS contractors. The CleanFinish EIFS Soffit Vent, made of extruded aluminum, is installed after the EIFS is installed. Because flanges of the soffit vent cover the terminations of the EIFS, no masking or clean up is required by the contractor.

The soffit vent is available in clear or anodized paint finishes and vented reveal widths of 2, 3 and 4 inches.

The Painter’s Blade™ from Warner Tool is the multi-purpose folding blade that combines 10 tools in one. Its stainless steel blade has a sharp, beveled edge that can scrape clean flat or radius surfaces, yet is flexible to apply window putty or spread compound.

“This unique tool combines the work of several different tools into one convenient tool,” says Shane Smith, national marketing manager for Warner Tool. “There is nothing else on the market that compares.”

The blade has a sharp cutting edge, a point for cleaning cracks and a curved dull edge for roller cleaning. The ergonomically designed handle features a checkered grip to reduce slippage, and a nickel-plated end cap to set loose nails.

A key feature in this tool is that the Painter’s Blade opens with one hand using the thumb knob, and locks open. The thumb knob can be reversed on the blade for left-hand use. When folded, this tool fits into any pocket.

Functional in both exterior and interior locations, The Beamer 5 multi-purpose laser from AGL Laser & Machine Control gives you control both inside and outside.

The laser is specially made to tackle every different situation, including ceilings, walls and access floors. The laser features a bright beam and variable rotation. A wide self-leveling range allows the user to set the lasers directly on the floor or mount to a tripod.

The laser is also ideal for use during big jobs. The Beamer 5 can make long shots without being moved.

“The multi-purpose laser gives you control both inside and outside,” says Gregg Petersen, marketing services manager. “Its bright beam is ideal for interior jobs. It also weather protected so it is ideal for general exterior construction.”

The SMI 55 Drywall Screw Magazine from Hilti, Inc. makes quick work of drywall installation. Developed for use with Hilti’s SD 45 electric screwdriver, it has a 50-screw capacity and allows you to work faster by eliminating the insertion of screws into the bit.

The tool allows for one hand to remain
free to position the drywall sheet, and screws can be driven in immediate succession—of particular advantage when working overhead. There is also less risk of injury caused by contact with sharp screw points.

Accommodating drywall screws ranging in length from 1
magazine snaps into the screwdriver and requires no tools for screw length adjustment. The design also features an impact-resistant plastic housing developed to withstand tough jobsite use.

“It is a great tool for drywall installers, plasterers, painters, decorators and carpenters,” says Ferren Bennett, marketing communications manager. “It allows you to drive a screw in every second.”

The Drillinger™ cordless drill shoulder
holster from GES Industries is specially made for industrial, commercial and residential work; it carries all makes and models of cordless drills and associated bits and adapters. The holster is made from a durable fabric manufactured by the DuPont Company and features an adjustable shoulder strap. It is available in both right- and left-handed models for easy access and reach.

Ergonomically designed to distribute weight to the shoulders instead of the lower back, the holster is fully adjustable and can be worn with other tool belts or over suspenders.

“A big problem with other drill holders is that as they get broken in, the majority of the weight ends up falling on the back,” says Gilbert Silva, president and CEO of GES. “As drills become more powerful, bigger batteries are needed to power them. Consequently, the handle becomes heavier, pushing the weight of the entire drill down. The Drillinger is designed to prevent this problem, securing it against your body.”

Also available is an attachable drill bit holder accessory that can be used with the holster, other types of tool belts and suspenders.

Jaws Ladders from Louisville Ladder are designed to meet a range of accessibility for the professional. The Jaws series includes five sizes of ladders, each one providing 10 different positions while supporting between 250 and 300 pounds on each side.

The stepladders feature non-slip rubber feet, standard flared bases for stability, five-position heavy-duty hinges and aluminum construction.

The multi-position Telescopic Climbing System can be manipulated into 10 different forms for setting up or positioning the ladder on stairs, over a wall,
against a wall, or for a taller job at a height of up to 26 feet.

**Laserjamb™** is a new tool based on rotary laser technology designed for the professional builder/installer to save time and enhance productivity. The rotary base allows you to shoot both horizontal and vertical lines by tuning the laser. Setup can be completed in 30 seconds and once it is in place, the unit can provide lines from as low as 4 3/4 inches up to 148 inches. It does not require you to chalk out lines or put any marks on the wall.

Other features include a laser battery with 16 hours of continuous use, and an extension pole reaching heights of 12 feet. It comes with a calibrated scale to facilitate quick changes in height.

“There has never been another product like this on the market,” says owner Paul Akers. “Unlike the limited adjustability of the tripod, this product can be easily adjusted to greater heights off the ground. It can also be easily positioned in any area that you want.”

Lufkin®, a CooperTools brand, offers a series of compact 50 foot and 15 meter tape measures designed specifically for easy measuring of long horizontal and vertical distances for specialized construction applications including painting and wall covering calculations.

The compact Hi-Viz yellow or orange tape cases have removable belt clips, an easy-opening knob for fast retrieval and a 1-inch blade for greater standout and ease of extension over longer distances.

Responding to the need for a small yet powerful cost effective two-way radio,
Global Wireless designed the world’s smallest, full-powered two-way radio.

At a size similar to a pack of cigarettes, the VX-10 is a five watt (full-powered), 40 channel (102 channel capability with optional key pad) synthesized radio that features user-selectable scan modes to lock out or avoid busy channels. Moreover, this unit is capable of handling digital and analog private lines and have an automatic receive and transmit battery save feature.

In addition, the radio is built to military specifications and comes with an extra long battery life, antenna and spring loaded belt clip.

“Although the radio is a great tool in itself, it is our company that sets us apart,” says Buzz Richards, director of marketing. “Global Wireless gives our customers exceptional service that includes a quick turnaround for repairs and a four-year warranty. In addition, each customer receives a customer representative assigned to them so there is always a support member family with their company.”

Weighing just under 11 ounces, Motorola Spirit M-Series Professional Two-Way Radios have a talk range of up to five miles outdoors and can transmit up to 20 floors and across 25,000 square feet inside steel and concrete buildings.

Select models include multiple channels-enabling a foreman to communicate separately with a work crew laying the foundation of a building, a crane operator moving beams high overhead and an on-site security guard. The channel scan feature allows you to monitor several channels at once.

The Stanley-Bostitch® N63CP system for fastening wood to steel offers a quick alternative for hanging plywood sheathing to steel-framed structures.

Recognized by the International Conference of Building Officials, the N63CP requires little training to oper-
ate. It features a coil-fed fastener system that uses a 1 3/8-inch galvanized, helix-thread nail with a ballistic point that quickly and securely fastens plywood to 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22 gauge steel.

It works on the same principles as the traditional pneumatic nailer. It comes standard with a contact trip but can be easily converted to a sequential trip, which also is included with the tool.

Agile Building Systems new In•Sulate™, a laminate of drywall and foam insulation in one piece, is a time-saving product that can be installed in one step in wood construction, concrete masonry units and steel stud construction.

It is installed the same way as traditional drywall. In addition, the "thermal bridging" effect usually seen in wood and steel stud construction is eliminated, giving the wall a higher R-value. There is also no need to hang “blue board” under the drywall in steel stud construction. Another feature is the elimination of the “shadowing effect” that often occurs in steel stud construction.

In•Sulate also decreases sound transmission, and its urethane foam backing makes it resistant to moisture, insects, rot and fire.

The Hunter Ceiling System, manufactured of anodized extruded aluminum, offers standard panel sizes ranging from 2 feet by 2 feet up to 4 feet by 12 feet or larger. The patented rail-lock action from Hunter Douglas, Inc. allows any section of an existing ceiling to be easily disassembled and reassembled using the original pieces. Panels are removed and replaced with a knife and tube of silicone caulking.

The system will also allow for innovative designs using light fixtures and mechanical services required in the ceiling. Its grid standard finish is clear anodizing, offering protection under most conditions. Custom anodized finishes and colors, as well as custom paint finishes are available.

This sampling of some the newest products on the construction market all feature different designs and functions implementing the latest in technology and innovation. Although each one is unique to the respective companies, the goal remains the same—to make your next job easier, quicker and safer.