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## **REFUSE PLUS IMAGINATION EQUALS BUILDING MATERIALS**

The "Environment 72" prize, created by the Swiss branch of the Bank of Paris and the Netherlands to reward the best invention in the field of recycling household or industrial refuse into new objects of obvious utility, was recently awarded to an industrialist at Neuenghof (Aargau, Switzerland). The latter had invented an original process for manufacturing building panels out of the contents of domestic rubbish bins, or trash cans. After being crushed and dried, the refuse is bonded together with glue, before being pressed into sheets of varying thicknesses. The building or facing panels thus obtained have properties in every way comparable with those of traditional products, from the points of view of resistance to pressure and traction, flexibility and rigidity, phonic insulation or resistance to fire. They also possess the advantage of being much more economical. The new process devised by the Swiss contractor has so far made it possible to produce from household refuse—preferably of organic origin (sometimes mixed with wood shavings)—building panels 2 to 100 mm thick, which have been submitted to various material testing institutes in Switzerland and abroad. The density, strength and flexibility of the panels can be varied, according to their ultimate use. (SODT).

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