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(71) Applicant: **Oben (New Zealand) Limited**  
**Glenfield Auckland (NZ)**

(72) Inventor: **Bladen, Roy Victor**  
**RD3 Albany (NZ)**

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(74) Representative: **Dearing-Lambert, Peter Richard**  
**Piper Lambert**  
**120 Queens Road**  
**Leicester LE2 3FL (GB)**

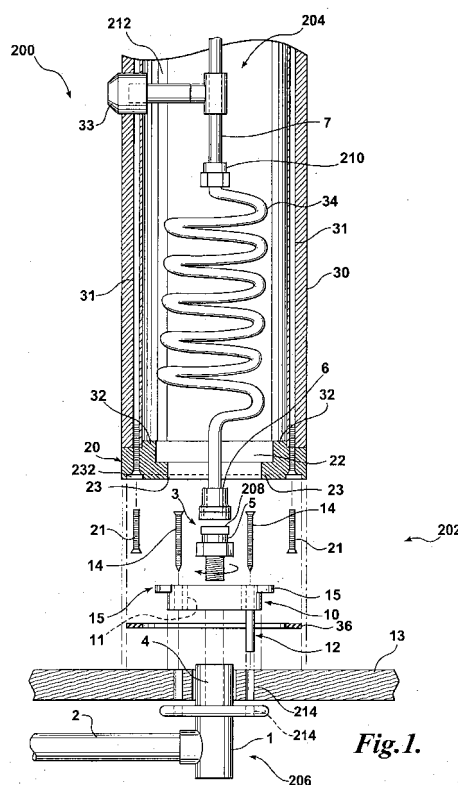
(54) **Connection assembly apparatus and method**

(57) A quick connect assembly and a method for attaching a building element (30) of a shower assembly to a support surface (13), the building element housing plumbing (34), said method including:

- a) fixing a first engaging portion to the support surface;
- b) fixing a first plumbing connection to the support surface;
- c) attaching a complementary second engaging portion capable of interlocking with the first engaging portion on the building element;
- d) providing the plumbing within the building element with an end portion which is substantially rigid and fixing a second plumbing connection to the end portion;
- e) positioning the second engaging portion of the building element over the first engaging portion coupled to the support surface;
- f) interlocking the first engaging portion with the second engaging portion, wherein the interlocking of the engaging portions also results in connection of the first and second plumbing connections to one another, and

further including aligning a provision of the cam portion

with a complementary provision associated with the surface, wherein alignment of the provisions permits the building element to be oriented in a selected orientation relative to the surface when the building element is attached to the surface.





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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 04 25 1725

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                   |                                                             |                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Category                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages                                     | Relevant to claim                                           | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)                    |
| X                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | EP 0 967 425 A (SYLEA SA)<br>29 December 1999 (1999-12-29)<br>* column 2, paragraph 17 - column 4, paragraph 41 * | 1-5,10,<br>12,19                                            | A47K3/28<br>E03C1/06<br>E03C1/04<br>E03C1/042                   |
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| Y                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                   |                                                             |                                                                 |
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| A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | US 5 983 419 A (CARROLL JON ROBERT)<br>16 November 1999 (1999-11-16)<br>* abstract; figures *                     | 1-19,<br>25-33                                              | TECHNICAL FIELDS<br>SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)<br>A47K<br>E03C<br>F16L |
| <p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                   |                                                             |                                                                 |
| Place of search<br><b>Munich</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                   | Date of completion of the search<br><b>22 November 2004</b> | Examiner<br><b>Durrenberger, X</b>                              |
| <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone<br/>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category<br/>A : technological background<br/>O : non-written disclosure<br/>P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention<br/>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date<br/>D : document cited in the application<br/>L : document cited for other reasons<br/>&amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> |                                                                                                                   |                                                             |                                                                 |

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EPO FORM 1503 03.02 (P04C01)



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### CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

### LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

1-19, 25-33



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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION  
SHEET B

Application Number  
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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-19, 25-33

A quick connect assembly for connecting a building element to a surface, a method of coupling a building element to a surface

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2. claims: 20-24

A building element comprising an internal extendible pipe

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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22-11-2004

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EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82