

Claims:

1. A method of preparing a multilayer structure, the method comprising:
 depositing a layer of silicon oxynitride on a back surface of a single crystal semiconductor handle wafer, wherein the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer comprises two major, parallel surfaces, one of which is the back surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer and the other of which is a front surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer, a circumferential edge joining the front surface and the back surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer, a central axis perpendicular to the front surface and the back surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer, and a bulk region between the front and back surfaces of the semiconductor handle substrate, wherein the layer of silicon oxynitride deposited on the back surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer has a composition of SiO_yN_x , wherein x has a value between 0.1 and 3, and y has a value between 0.1 and 2, and further wherein the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of silicon, silicon carbide, silicon germanium, gallium arsenide, gallium nitride, indium phosphide, indium gallium arsenide, germanium, and combinations thereof;
 bonding the front surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer to a front surface of a single crystal semiconductor donor wafer to thereby form a bonded structure, wherein the single crystal semiconductor donor wafer comprises two major, generally parallel surfaces, one of which is the front surface of the single crystal semiconductor donor wafer and the other of which is a back surface of the single crystal semiconductor donor wafer, a circumferential edge joining the front and back surfaces of the single crystal semiconductor donor wafer, and a bulk region between the front and back surfaces of the single crystal semiconductor donor wafer, and further wherein the front surface of the single crystal semiconductor donor wafer comprises a dielectric layer and the bulk region comprises a cleave plane, and further wherein the bonded structure comprises the layer of silicon oxynitride deposited on the back surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer, the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer, the dielectric layer in contact with the front surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer, and the single crystal semiconductor donor wafer;

mechanically cleaving the bonded structure at the cleave plane of the single crystal semiconductor donor wafer to thereby prepare a cleaved structure comprising the layer of silicon oxynitride in contact with the back surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer, the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer, the dielectric layer in contact with the front surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer, and a single crystal semiconductor device layer, wherein the single crystal semiconductor device layer comprises an exposed surface; and

smoothing the exposed surface of the single crystal semiconductor device layer to a root mean square surface roughness over a 30 micrometer by 30 micrometer surface region of less than about 2 angstroms to thereby prepare the multilayer structure.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer comprises a single crystal silicon wafer sliced from a single crystal silicon ingot grown by the Czochralski method or the float zone method.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the layer of silicon oxynitride deposited on the back surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer has a thickness between about 500 angstroms and about 20,000 angstroms, as measured along the central axis of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the layer of silicon oxynitride deposited on the back surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer has a thickness between about 40 angstroms and about 1000 angstroms, as measured along the central axis of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein a layer of silicon oxynitride is deposited on the front surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer simultaneously with deposition of the layer of silicon oxynitride on the back surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer, and the method further comprises removing the layer of silicon oxynitride deposited on the front surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer prior to the bonding step.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the layer of silicon oxynitride deposited on the back surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer has a composition

of SiO_yN_x , wherein x has a value between 0.1 and 2.9, and y has a value between 0.1 and 1.9.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the single crystal semiconductor device layer is between about 40 angstroms and about 1000 angstroms thick, as measured along the central axis of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer and comprises single crystal silicon.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the exposed surface of the single crystal semiconductor device layer is smoothed to a root mean square surface roughness over a 30 micrometer by 30 micrometer surface region of less than about 1.5 angstroms.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the exposed surface of the single crystal semiconductor device layer is smoothed by epitaxial smoothing.

10. A method of preparing a multilayer structure, the method comprising:
depositing a layer of carbon-doped silicon on a back surface of a single crystal semiconductor handle wafer, wherein the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer comprises two major, parallel surfaces, one of which is the back surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer and the other of which is a front surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer, a circumferential edge joining the front surface and the back surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer, a central axis perpendicular to the front surface and the back surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer, and a bulk region between the front and back surfaces of the semiconductor handle substrate, and further wherein the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of silicon, silicon carbide, silicon germanium, gallium arsenide, gallium nitride, indium phosphide, indium gallium arsenide, germanium, and combinations thereof, wherein the layer of carbon-doped silicon is deposited by physical vapor deposition (PVD), chemical vapor deposition (CVD), plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD), or low pressure chemical vapor deposition (LPCVD);

bonding the front surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer to a front surface of a single crystal semiconductor donor wafer to thereby form a bonded structure, wherein the single crystal semiconductor donor wafer comprises two major,

generally parallel surfaces, one of which is the front surface of the single crystal semiconductor donor wafer and the other of which is a back surface of the single crystal semiconductor donor wafer, a circumferential edge joining the front and back surfaces of the single crystal semiconductor donor wafer, and a bulk region between the front and back surfaces of the single crystal semiconductor donor wafer, and further wherein the front surface of the single crystal semiconductor donor wafer comprises a dielectric layer and the bulk region comprises a cleave plane, and further wherein the bonded structure comprises the layer of carbon-doped silicon deposited on the back surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer, the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer, the dielectric layer in contact with the front surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer, and the single crystal semiconductor donor wafer;

mechanically cleaving the bonded structure at the cleave plane of the single crystal semiconductor donor wafer to thereby prepare a cleaved structure comprising the layer of carbon-doped silicon in contact with the back surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer, the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer, the dielectric layer in contact with the front surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer, and a single crystal semiconductor device layer, wherein the single crystal semiconductor device layer comprises an exposed surface; and

smoothing the exposed surface of the single crystal semiconductor device layer to a root mean square surface roughness over a 30 micrometer by 30 micrometer surface region of less than about 2 angstroms to thereby prepare the multilayer structure.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer comprises a single crystal silicon wafer sliced from a single crystal silicon ingot grown by the Czochralski method or the float zone method.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the layer of carbon-doped silicon comprises a carbon concentration of at least about 1% on an atomic basis.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein the layer of carbon-doped silicon comprises a carbon concentration of between about 1% and about 50% on an atomic basis.

14. The method of claim 10 wherein the layer of carbon-doped silicon deposited on the back surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer has a thickness between about 500 angstroms and about 50,000 angstroms, as measured along the central axis of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer.

15. The method of claim 10 wherein the layer of carbon-doped silicon deposited on the back surface of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer has a thickness between about 40 angstroms and about 1000 angstroms, as measured along the central axis of the single crystal semiconductor handle wafer.

16. The method of claim 10 wherein the layer of carbon-doped silicon comprises carbon-doped amorphous silicon.

17. The method of claim 10 wherein the single crystal semiconductor device layer comprises single crystal silicon.

18. The method of claim 10 wherein the exposed surface of the single crystal semiconductor device layer to a root mean square surface roughness over a 30 micrometer by 30 micrometer surface region of less than about 1.5 angstroms.

19. The method of claim 10 wherein the exposed surface of the single crystal semiconductor device layer is smoothed by epitaxial smoothing.