HETEROGENEOUS INTEGRATION OF GROUP III NITRIDE ON SILICON FOR ADVANCED INTEGRATED CIRCUITS

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ABSTRACT

Various methods to integrate a Group III nitride material on a silicon material are provided. In one embodiment, the method includes providing a structure including a (100) silicon layer, a (111) silicon layer located on an uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer, a Group III nitride material layer located on an uppermost surface of the (111) silicon layer, and a blanket layer of dielectric material located on the uppermost surface of the Group III nitride material layer. Next, an opening is formed through the blanket layer of dielectric material, the Group III nitride material layer, the (111) Si layer and within a portion of the (100) silicon layer. A dielectric spacer is then formed within the opening. An epitaxial semiconductor material is then formed on an exposed surface of the (100) silicon layer within the opening and thereafter planarization is performed.

20 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets
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HETEROGENEOUS INTEGRATION OF GROUP III NITRIDE ON SILICON FOR ADVANCED INTEGRATED CIRCUITS

BACKGROUND

The present disclosure relates to various methods for integrating a Group III nitride on a silicon substrate, and various semiconductor structures that are formed using the methods of the present application.

Group III nitride materials are a unique group of semiconductor materials which can be used in a wide variety of applications including, for example, optoelectronics, photovoltaics and lighting. Group III nitrides are composed of nitrogen and at least one element from Group III, i.e., aluminum (Al), gallium (Ga) and indium (In), of the Periodic Table of Elements. Illustrative examples of some common Group III nitrides are GaN, AlN, InN, GaAlN, and GaAlInN. By changing the composition of Al, Ga and/or In within a Group III nitride, the Group III nitride can be tuned along the electromagnetic spectrum; mainly from 210 nm to 1770 nm. This spectrum includes the visible light emitting diode (LED), which is more than a $10$ billion dollar industry with a forecasted double digit yearly growth rate. This continuous growth in LED demand enables the infrastructural build-up for the growth and fabrication of Group III nitride based semiconductor devices.

One of the bottlenecks for Group III nitride based semiconductor devices is a lack of a lattice matched substrate. Some of the conventional substrates are sapphire (Al$_2$O$_3$), silicon carbide (SiC), silicon (Si), and zinc oxide (ZnO) that have about $13\%$, $3\%$, $17\%$ and $2\%$, respectively, lattice mismatch with GaN. Currently, lattice matched freestanding GaN and AlN substrates are being developed. However, lattice matched substrates suffer from availability and cost.

Most of the Group III nitride consumer-targeted devices are conventionally grown on sapphire substrates. There is, however, a need for the development of Group III nitride technology on more available and cheaper substrates such as silicon. The integration between Group III nitrides and silicon substrates is difficult because of the different crystal structure and lattice constant of those materials. As such, a method is needed which can be used to easily integrate Group III nitride materials and silicon substrates.

SUMMARY

One aspect of the present disclosure relates to various methods to integrate a Group III nitride material on a silicon material. In one embodiment of the present disclosure, the method includes providing a structure comprising, from bottom to top, a (100) silicon layer, a (111) silicon layer located on an uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer, a Group III nitride material layer located on an uppermost surface of the (111) silicon layer, and a blanket layer of dielectric material located on an uppermost surface of the Group III nitride material layer. Next, an opening is formed through the blanket layer of dielectric material, the Group III nitride material layer, the (111) Si layer and partially within the (100) silicon layer, wherein a surface of the (100) silicon layer beneath the uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer is exposed. Next, a conformal dielectric material layer is formed atop remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material and within the opening. Horizontal portions of the conformal dielectric material layer are then removed to provide template dielectric spacers partially covering the exposed surface of the (100) silicon layer. An epitaxial semiconductor material layer is formed on a remaining portion of the exposed surface of the (100) silicon layer. Next, portions of the epitaxial semiconductor material layer, portions of the template dielectric spacers, and remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material are removed to expose the uppermost surface of remaining portions of the Group III nitride material layer.

In another embodiment of the present disclosure, the method includes providing a structure comprising, from bottom to top, a (100) silicon layer, a (111) silicon layer located on an uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer, a Group III nitride material layer located on an uppermost surface of the (111) silicon layer, and a blanket layer of dielectric material located on an uppermost surface of the Group III nitride material layer. An opening is formed through the blanket layer of dielectric material, and the Group III nitride material layer to expose a portion of the uppermost surface of the (111) silicon layer. An oxidation process is performed to form an oxide plug within the exposed portion of the (111) silicon layer, wherein a bottommost surface of the oxide plug contacts the uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer. A conformal dielectric material liner is formed atop remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material and within the opening. Horizontal portions of the conformal dielectric material liner and a portion of the oxide plug are removed to expose a portion of the uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer. An epitaxial semiconductor material layer is formed on remaining exposed portions of the uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer. Next, portions of the epitaxial semiconductor material layer, and remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material are removed to expose the uppermost surface of remaining portions of the Group III nitride material layer.

In yet another embodiment of the present disclosure, the method of the present disclosure includes providing a structure comprising, from bottom to top, a (100) silicon layer, a buried insulator layer located on an uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer, a (111) silicon layer located on an uppermost surface of the buried insulator layer, a Group III nitride material layer located on an uppermost surface of the (111) silicon layer, and a blanket layer of dielectric material located on an uppermost surface of the Group III nitride material layer. Next, an opening is formed through the blanket layer of dielectric material, and the Group III nitride material layer to expose a portion of the uppermost surface of the (111) silicon layer. A conformal dielectric material liner is formed atop remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material and within the opening. Horizontal portions of the conformal dielectric material liner are removed to provide template dielectric spacers partially covering the exposed portion of the uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer. An epitaxial semiconductor material layer is formed on remaining exposed portions of the uppermost surface of the (111) silicon layer. Next, portions of the epitaxial semiconductor material, portions of the template dielectric spacers and remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material are removed to expose the uppermost surface of remaining portions of the Group III nitride material layer.

In a further embodiment of the present disclosure, the method of the present disclosure includes providing a structure comprising, from bottom to top, a layer of sapphire, a (100) silicon layer located on an uppermost surface of the layer of sapphire, and a blanket layer of dielectric material located on an uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer. Next, an opening is formed within the structure to expose the uppermost surface of the layer of sapphire. A Group III nitride material layer is then formed atop the exposed surfaces of the (100) silicon layer, and thereafter, portions of the Group III nitride
material layer are removed from atop remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material.

In another aspect of the present disclosure semiconductor structures are provided in which a Group III nitride material is integrated with a silicon layer. In one embodiment of the present disclosure, the semiconductor structure includes a (100) silicon layer having an uppermost surface; a patterned (111) silicon layer located on the uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer; a patterned Group III nitride material layer located on an uppermost surface of the patterned (111) silicon layer; and an epitaxial semiconductor material layer located within an opening in the patterned (111) silicon layer and the patterned Group III nitride material layer. In accordance with this embodiment of the present disclosure, the epitaxial semiconductor material layer within the opening has a bottommost surface in direct contact with a portion of the (100) silicon layer, and an uppermost surface that is coplanar within the uppermost surface of the patterned Group III nitride material layer. Also, sidewall surfaces of the epitaxial semiconductor material layer are separated from sidewall surfaces of the patterned Group III nitride material layer by a dielectric spacer.

In another embodiment, the semiconductor structure includes a (100) silicon layer having an uppermost surface; a buried insulator layer located on the uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer; a (111) silicon layer located on an uppermost surface of the buried insulator layer; a patterned Group III nitride material layer located on an uppermost surface of the (111) silicon layer; and an epitaxial semiconductor material layer located within an opening in the patterned Group III nitride material layer. In accordance with this embodiment of the present disclosure, the epitaxial semiconductor material layer has a bottommost surface in direct contact with the uppermost surface of the (111) silicon layer, and an uppermost surface that is coplanar within the uppermost surface of the patterned Group III nitride material layer. Also, sidewall surfaces of the epitaxial semiconductor material layer are separated from sidewall surfaces of the patterned Group III nitride material layer by a dielectric spacer.

In yet another embodiment, the semiconductor structure includes a layer of sapphire; a patterned (100) silicon layer located on an uppermost surface of sapphire; and a Group III nitride material layer located within an opening in the patterned (100) silicon layer and located on portion of the uppermost surface of the layer of sapphire. Also, a portion of the Group III nitride material layer is in direct contact with sidewalls of the patterned (100) silicon layer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating a structure including at least a (100) silicon (Si) layer having a (111) silicon (Si) layer located on an uppermost surface thereof that can be employed in one embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 2 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating the structure of FIG. 1 after forming a Group III nitride material layer on an uppermost surface of the (111) Si layer.

FIG. 3 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating the structure of FIG. 2 after forming a blanket layer of dielectric material on an uppermost surface of the Group III nitride material layer.

FIG. 4 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating the structure of FIG. 3 after forming an opening through the blanket layer of dielectric material, the Group III nitride material layer, the (111) Si layer and partially within the (100) Si layer exposing a surface of the (100) Si layer which is located beneath the uppermost surface of the (100) Si layer.

FIG. 5 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating the structure of FIG. 4 after forming a conformal dielectric material layer.

FIG. 6 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating the structure of FIG. 5 after removing horizontal portions of the conformal dielectric material liner from the structure to provide template dielectric spacers covering a portion of the exposed surface of the (100) Si layer that is located beneath the uppermost surface of the (100) Si layer.

FIG. 7 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating the structure of FIG. 6 after growing an epitaxial semiconductor material layer on remaining portions of the exposed surface of the (100) Si layer that is located beneath the uppermost surface of the (100) Si layer and planarization.

FIG. 8 is pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating the structure of FIG. 7 after forming an opening through the blanket layer of dielectric material, and the Group III nitride material so as to expose a portion of the uppermost surface of the (111) Si layer.

FIG. 9 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating the structure of FIG. 8 after performing an oxidation process to provide an oxide plug within the (111) Si layer, the oxide plug having a bottommost surface in direct contact with a portion of the uppermost surface of the (100) Si layer.

FIG. 10 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating the structure of FIG. 9 after forming a conformal dielectric material liner.

FIG. 11 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating the structure of FIG. 10 after removing horizontal portions of the conformal dielectric material liner and portions of the oxide plug from the structure to expose a portion of the uppermost surface of the (100) Si layer.

FIG. 12 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating the structure of FIG. 11 after growing an epitaxial semiconductor material layer on the exposed portion of the uppermost surface of the (100) Si layer and planarization.

FIG. 13 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating a silicon-on-insulator substrate that includes, from bottom to top, a (100) Si layer, a buried insulator layer, and a (111) Si layer that can be employed in another embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 14 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating the structure of FIG. 13 after forming a Group III nitride material layer on an uppermost surface of the (111) Si layer.

FIG. 15 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating the structure of FIG. 14 after forming a blanket layer of dielectric material on an uppermost surface of the Group III nitride material layer.

FIG. 16 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating the structure of FIG. 15 after forming an opening through the blanket layer of dielectric material, and the Group III nitride material layer exposing a portion of the uppermost surface of the Si (111) material layer.

FIG. 17 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating the structure of FIG. 16 after forming a conformal dielectric material liner.

FIG. 18 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating the structure of FIG. 17 after removing horizontal portions of the conformal dielectric material
liner from the structure to re-expose a portion of the uppermost surface of the (111) Si layer.

FIG. 19 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating the structure of FIG. 18 after growing an epitaxial semiconductor material layer from the re-exposed portion of the uppermost surface of the (111) Si layer and planarization.

FIG. 20 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating a (100) Si layer on a sapphire substrate that can be employed in another embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 21 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating the structure of FIG. 20 after forming a blanket layer of dielectric material on an uppermost surface of the (100) Si layer and after forming an opening through the blanket layer of dielectric material and the (100) Si layer to expose a portion of the uppermost surface of the sapphire substrate.

FIG. 22 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating the structure of FIG. 21 after forming a Group III nitride material layer from uppermost surface of the sapphire substrate and planarization.

FIG. 23 is a pictorial representation (through a cross sectional view) illustrating the structure of FIG. 22 after formation of a semiconductor device upon and within a portion of the uppermost surface of the (100) Si layer and after forming an interconnect dielectric material.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present disclosure, which relates to various methods for integrating a Group III nitride material with a silicon substrate, and various semiconductor structures that are formed using the methods of the present application, will now be described in greater detail by referring to the following discussion and drawings that accompany the present disclosure. It is noted that the drawings are provided for illustrative purposes only and are not drawn to scale.

In the following description, numerous specific details are set forth, such as particular structures, components, materials, dimensions, processing steps and techniques, in order to illustrate the present disclosure. However, it will be appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art that various embodiments of the present disclosure may be practiced without these, or with other, specific details. In other instances, well-known structures or processing steps have not been described in detail in order to avoid obscuring the various embodiments of the present disclosure.

It will be understood that when an element as a layer, region or substrate is referred to as being “on” or “over” another element, it can be directly on the other element or intervening elements may also be present. In contrast, when an element is referred to as being “directly on” or “directly over” another element, there are no intervening elements present. It will also be understood that when an element is referred to as being “connected” or “coupled” to another element, it can be directly connected or coupled to the other element or intervening elements may be present. In contrast, when an element is referred to as being “directly connected” or “directly coupled” to another element, there are no intervening elements present. When an element is referred to as being “directly contacting” or “in direct contact with” another element, there are no intervening elements present.

Referring to FIG. 1, there is illustrated a structure including at least a (100) silicon (Si) layer 14 having a (111) silicon (Si) layer 16 located on an uppermost surface thereof that can be employed in one embodiment of the present disclosure. The structure further includes a buried insulator layer 12 in contact with a bottommost surface of the (100) Si layer 14 and a handle substrate 10 located in contact with a bottommost surface of the buried insulator layer 12. In some embodiments, the buried insulator layer 12 and the handle substrate 10 are optional and thus can be omitted.

The term “(100) Si layer” denotes a silicon layer which has a (100) crystallographic surface orientation. The term “(111) Si layer” denotes a silicon layer which has a (111) crystallographic surface orientation. The (100) Si layer 14 and the (111) Si layer 16 are both single crystalline materials. Moreover, the (100) Si layer 14 and/or the (111) Si layer 16 can be doped, undoped or contain regions that are doped and other regions that are non-doped. The dopant may be an n-type dopant selected from an Element from Group VA of the Periodic Table of Elements (i.e., P, As and/or Sb) or a p-type dopant selected from an Element from Group VIB of the Periodic Table of Elements (i.e., B, Al, Ga and/or In). The (100) Si layer 14 and/or the (111) Si layer 16 may contain one region that is doped with a p-type dopant and another region that is doped with an n-type dopant. The thickness of the (100) Si layer 14 and/or the (111) Si layer 16 can be from 1 nm to 1 μm, although lesser and greater thicknesses can also be employed.

The buried insulator layer 12 that can be present in some embodiments of the present disclosure may be comprised of a dielectric material including, for example, an oxide, a nitride, an oxynitride or any combination thereof. In one embodiment, the buried insulator layer 12 can be an oxide such as, for example, silicon oxide. The thickness of the buried insulator layer 12 can be from 5 nm to 100 nm, although lesser and greater thicknesses can also be employed.

The handle substrate 10 may comprise a semiconductor material, an insulator material, a conductive material or any combination thereof. The handle substrate 10 provides mechanical support to the buried insulator layer 12, the (100) Si layer 14 and the (111) Si layer 16. In one embodiment, the handle substrate 10 comprises a semiconductor material including, but not limited to, silicon, germanium, a silicon germanium alloy, a III-V compound semiconductor, a II-VI compound semiconductor or any combination thereof. The thickness of the handle substrate 10 can be from 50 microns to 2 cm, although lesser and greater thicknesses can also be employed.

The structure shown in FIG. 1 can be formed utilizing any conventional bonding process. For example and in one embodiment, the (100) Si layer 14 and the (111) Si layer 16 can be bonding directly together without the presence of the buried insulator layer 12, and the handle substrate 10. In other embodiments, a structure comprising the (100) Si layer 14, the buried insulator layer 12, and the handle substrate 10 can be bonded to the (111) Si layer. In some embodiments, the buried insulator layer 12 and the handle substrate 10 can remain within the bonded structure. In other embodiments, the buried insulator layer 12 and the handle substrate 10 can be removed by planarization and/or grinding.

Referring now to FIG. 2, there is illustrated the structure of FIG. 1 after forming a Group III nitride material layer 18 on an uppermost surface of the (111) Si layer 16. The term “Group III nitride material layer” as used throughout the present disclosure denotes a compound or a structure that is composed of nitrogen and at least one element from Group III, i.e., aluminum (Al), gallium (Ga) and indium (In), of the Periodic Table of Elements. Illustrative examples of some common Group III nitride compounds are GaN, AlN, GaN, GaAlN, GaInN. Illustrative examples of some common Group III nitride structures are AlGaN/GaN, GaN/
Referring to FIG. 4, there is illustrated the structure of FIG. 3 after forming an opening 22 through the blanket layer of dielectric material 20, the Group III nitride material layer 18, the (111) Si layer 16 and partially within the (100) Si layer 14. The opening 22 exposes a surface 21 of the now partially etched (100) Si layer 14 which is located beneath the uppermost surface of the original (100) Si layer 14. The remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material 20, the Group III nitride material layer 18, and the (111) Si layer 16 are labeled as 20', 18', and 16', respectively. It is noted that the present disclosure is not limited to forming a single opening within the structure shown in FIG. 3. Instead, a plurality of such openings can be formed into the structure. Each of the openings that are formed expose a surface 21 of the partially etched (100) Si layer 14' that is located beneath an uppermost surface of the original (100) Si layer 14'.

The opening 22 can be formed by lithography and etching. The lithographic step used in forming the opening 22 includes applying a blanket layer of a photosensitive material on the uppermost surface of the blanket layer of dielectric material, exposing the photosensitive material to radiation and developing the exposed photosensitive material. The etching step used in forming the opening 22 may include a dry etching process, a chemical wet etching process or any combination thereof. When a dry etching process is employed, one of reactive ion etching, plasma etching, and ion beam etching can be used. When a chemical wet etch process is employed, a chemical etchant that selectively removes exposed portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material is used. After the etching process has been performed, the patterned photosensitive material is stripped from the structure utilizing a conventional resist stripping process such as, for example, ashing.

In addition to exposing surface 21, the opening 22 also exposes sidewall surfaces of the remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material 20', the remaining portions of the Group III nitride material layer 18', the remaining portions of the (111) Si layer 16' and the partially etched (100) Si layer 14'. Opening 22 that is formed has an aspect ratio (height to width ratio) of 1:1 or greater, with an aspect ratio of 3 to 1 being more typical.

Referring to FIG. 5, there is illustrated the structure of FIG. 4 after forming a conformal dielectric material liner 24 on all exposed surfaces of the structure. Specifically, the conformal dielectric material liner 24 is formed on the exposed uppermost surface of the remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material 20', the exposed sidewall surfaces of the remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material 20', the remaining portions of the Group III nitride material layer 18', remaining portions of the (111) Si layer 16' and the partially etched (100) Si layer 14' and on the exposed surface 21. The conformal dielectric material liner 24 may comprise a dielectric oxide, dielectric nitride, and/or dielectric oxynitride. In one embodiment of the present disclosure, the dielectric material liner 24 comprises silicon oxide or silicon nitride. The conformal dielectric material liner 24 can be formed utilizing a conformal deposition process such as, for example, chemical vapor deposition, plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition or atomic layer deposition. By “conformal” it means that the deposition provides a film that defines a morphologically uneven interface with another body and has a thickness that is substantially the same (i.e., ±10 Angstroms) everywhere along the interface. The thickness of the conformal dielectric material liner 24 can be from 2 nm to 5 nm, although lesser and greater thicknesses can also be employed.
Referring to FIG. 6, there is illustrated the structure of FIG. 5 after removing horizontal portions of the conformal dielectric material liner 24 from the structure to re-expose a portion of surface 21 of the partially etched (100) Si layer 14 that is located beneath the uppermost surface of the (100) Si layer. The removal of horizontal portions of the dielectric material liner 24 can be performed utilizing an anisotropic (i.e., directional) etching process such as, for example, reactive ion etching (RIE). The remaining portions of the dielectric material liner 24 that are present within the opening 22 and on the exposed sidewall surfaces of the remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material 20, the remaining portions of the Group III nitride material layer 18, the remaining portions of the (111) Si layer 16 and the partially etched (100) Si layer 14 can be referred to as template dielectric spacers 24.

Referring to FIG. 7, there is illustrated the structure of FIG. 6 after growing an epitaxial semiconductor material layer from the re-exposed portion of surface 21 of the partially etched (100) Si layer that is located beneath the uppermost surface of the (100) Si layer and planarization. The epitaxial semiconductor material layer that remains after the planarization is labeled as element 26 in the drawings of the present application. Epitaxially growing, epitaxial growth and/or deposition mean the growth of a semiconductor material on a deposition surface of a semiconductor material, in which the semiconductor material being grown has the same crystalline characteristics as the semiconductor material of the deposition surface. In the present embodiment, the semiconductor material has the same crystalline characteristics as that of the physically exposed surface 21 of the partially etched (100) Si layer 14. When the chemical reagents are controlled and the system parameters are set correctly, the depositing atoms arrive at the deposition surface with sufficient energy to move around on the surface and orient themselves to the crystal arrangement of the atoms of the deposition surface. Thus, an epitaxial film deposited on a {100} crystal surface will take on a {100} orientation. In some embodiments, the epitaxial deposition process is a selective deposition process.

The semiconductor material that can be epitaxially deposited and provides epitaxial semiconductor material layer 26 includes any semiconductor material such as, for example, silicon (Si), germanium (Ge), silicon germanium (SiGe). In one embodiment, the semiconductor material includes a same semiconductor material as that of the partially etched (100) Si layer 14. In another embodiment, the semiconductor material includes a different semiconductor material as that of the partially etched (100) Si layer 14. It is noted that the specific material compositions for the semiconductor material that provides epitaxial semiconductor material layer 26 are provided for illustrative purposes only, and are not intended to limit the present disclosure, as any semiconductor material that may be formed using an epitaxial growth process.

A number of different sources may be used for the deposition of semiconductor material used in forming the epitaxial semiconductor material of epitaxial semiconductor material layer 26. In some embodiments, in which the semiconductor material of the epitaxial semiconductor material layer 26 is composed of silicon, the silicon gas source for epitaxial deposition may be selected from the group consisting of germanium (GeH₄), digermane (Ge₂H₆), halogen-germane, dichloro-germane, trichloro-germane, tetrachloro-germane and combinations thereof. In some embodiments, in which the semiconductor material of epitaxial semiconductor material layer 26 is composed of germanium, the germanium gas source for epitaxial deposition may be selected from the group consisting of germane (GeH₄), digermane (Ge₂H₆), halogen-germane, dichloro-germane, trichloro-germane, tetrachloro-germane and combinations thereof. In some embodiments, in which the semiconductor material of epitaxial semiconductor material layer 26 is composed of silicon germanium, the silicon sources for epitaxial deposition may be selected from the group consisting of silane, disilane, trisilane, tetrasilane, hexachlorodisilane, tetrachlorosilane, dichlorosilane, trichlorosilane, methylsilane, dimethylsilane, ethylsilane, methylthielsilane, dimethylsilane, hexamethyldisilane and combinations thereof, and the germanium gas sources may be selected from the group consisting of germane, digermane, halo-germane, dichloro-germane, trichloro-germane, tetrachloro-germane and combinations thereof.

The temperature for epitaxial semiconductor deposition typically ranges from 550 °C to 900 °C. Although higher temperatures typically results in faster deposition, the faster deposition may result in crystal defects and film cracking. The apparatus for performing the epitaxial growth may include a chemical vapor deposition (CVD) apparatus, such as atmospheric pressure CVD (APCVD), low pressure CVD (LPCVD), plasma enhanced CVD (PECVD), metal-organic CVD (MOCVD) and others. The epitaxial semiconductor material of epitaxial semiconductor material layer 26 that is deposited can be doped or undoped. By “undoped” it is meant that the maximum dopant concentration of p-type or n-type dopants that are present in the epitaxial semiconductor material is less than 5x10¹⁵ atoms/cm³.

Following the epitaxial growth of semiconductor material, a planarization process such as chemical mechanical polishing and/or grinding can be used to provide a planar structure shown in FIG. 7. The planarization process removes the remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material 20, an upper portion of template dielectric spacers 24, and portions of the epitaxial semiconductor material layer 26 stopping on an uppermost surface of the remaining portions of the Group III nitride material layer 18. Portions of the template spacer 24 remain after the planarization process; the remaining portions of the template spacer 24 are referred to herein as dielectric spacers 24.

FIG. 7 illustrates one structure that can be formed in the present disclosure. The structure illustrated in FIG. 7 includes (100) silicon layer (i.e. partially etch (100) Si layer 14) having an uppermost surface; a patterned (111) silicon layer (i.e., remaining portions of the (111) Si layer 16) located on the uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer; a patterned Group III nitride material layer (i.e., remaining portions of the Group III nitride material layer 18) located on an uppermost surface of the patterned (111) silicon layer; and an epitaxial semiconductor material layer 26 located within an opening in the patterned (111) silicon layer and the patterned Group III nitride material layer. The epitaxial semiconductor material layer 26 has a bottommost surface in direct contact with a portion (i.e., surface 21) of the (100) silicon layer, and an uppermost surface that is coplanar within the uppermost surface of the patterned Group III nitride material layer 18. Also, sidewall surfaces of the epitaxial semiconductor material layer 26 are separated from sidewall surfaces of the patterned (111) silicon layer and the patterned Group III nitride material layer 18 by a dielectric spacer 24.

Referring now to FIG. 8, there is illustrated the structure of FIG. 3 after forming an opening 28 through the blanket layer of dielectric material 20, and the Group III nitride material.
layer 18 so as to expose a portion of the uppermost surface of the (111) Si layer 16. In the drawing, the remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material 20, and remaining portions of the Group III nitride material layer 18 are labeled as 20' and 18', respectively. Opening 28 is formed using the technique, i.e., lithography and etching, which was used in forming opening 22 in the structure shown in FIG. 4 of the present application. Opening 28 can have an aspect ratio within the range mentioned above for opening 22. In this embodiment, the opening 28 also exposes sidewall surfaces of the remaining portions of the blanket nitride material 20, and remaining portions of the Group III nitride material layer 18'.

Referring now to FIG. 9, there illustrated the structure of FIG. 8 after performing an oxidation process to provide an oxide plug 30 within the (111) Si layer 16. As shown, oxide plug 30 has a bottommost surface in direct contact with a portion of the uppermost surface of the (100) Si layer 14. The oxide plug 30 can be formed by performing a thermal oxidation process to the structure shown in FIG. 8. The thermal oxidation process can be performed by heating the structure shown in FIG. 8 in an oxidizing ambient at a temperature of 700°C or greater. The oxide plug 30 has a width that is substantially the same as the width of the opening 28. By “substantially the same” it is meant the width of the oxide plug is within ±100 Å from each sidewall surface. The oxide plug 30 is comprised of silicon oxide and thus is now a dielectric material.

Referring to FIG. 10, there is illustrated the structure of FIG. 9 after forming a conformal dielectric material liner 24 on all exposed surfaces including atop the exposed surfaces of the remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material 20', the exposed sidewall surfaces of the remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material 20' and atop an exposed horizontal surface of the oxide plug 30. The conformal dielectric material liner 24 used in this embodiment of the present disclosure is the same as that mentioned above in FIG. 5 of the present disclosure.

Referring to FIG. 11, there is illustrated the structure of FIG. 10 after removing horizontal portions of the conformal dielectric material liner 24 and portions of the oxide plug 30 from the structure to expose a portion of the uppermost surface of the (100) Si layer 16. The removal of the horizontal portions of the conformal dielectric material liner 24 and portions of the oxide plug 30 can be performed utilizing an anisotropic etch process, such as a reactive ion etch. In the drawings, the remaining portions of the conformal dielectric material liner 24 that are located on the exposed sidewall surfaces of the remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material 20' are referred to herein as template dielectric spacers 24', while the remaining portions of the oxide plug 30, which are located directly beneath the template dielectric spacers 24', are referred to herein as oxide spacers 30'.

Referring to FIG. 12, there is illustrated the structure of FIG. 11 after growing an epitaxial semiconductor material layer from the exposed portion of the uppermost surface of the (100) Si layer and planarization. The epitaxial semiconductor material layer can be formed utilizing the epitaxial growth process mentioned above in forming the structure shown in FIG. 7 of the present disclosure and one of the planarization processes mentioned above in forming the structure shown in FIG. 7 can be employed herein in forming the structure shown in FIG. 12. The remaining portion of the epitaxial semiconductor material layer after planarization is labeled as element 26 in the drawing. After planarization a remaining portion of the template spacer 24 remains forming an upper dielectric spacer 24'. In this embodiment, oxide spacer 30' and the upper dielectric spacer 24' can be collectively referred to as a composite spacer. The composite spacer includes a bottom oxide spacer portion (i.e., element 30') and an upper dielectric spacer portion (i.e., element 24').

FIG. 12 illustrates another structure that can be formed in the present disclosure. The structure illustrated in FIG. 12 includes (100) silicon layer 14 having an uppermost surface; a patterned (111) silicon layer (i.e., remaining portions of the (111) Si layer 16) located on the uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer; a patterned Group III nitride material layer 26 located within an opening in the patterned (111) silicon layer and the patterned Group III nitride material layer. The epitaxial semiconductor material layer 26 has a bottommost surface in direct contact with a portion of the uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer and an uppermost surface that is coplanar within the uppermost surface of the patterned Group III nitride material layer. Also, sidewall surfaces of the epitaxial semiconductor material layer 26 are separated from sidewall surfaces of the patterned (111) silicon layer and the patterned Group III nitride material layer by a dielectric spacer (24', 30').

Referring now to FIG. 13, there is illustrated a silicon-on-insulator substrate that can be employed in some embodiments of the present disclosure. The silicon-on-insulator substrate includes, from bottom to top, a (100) Si layer 50, a buried insulator layer 52, and a (111) Si layer 54. The (100) Si layer 50 can have a thickness within the range mentioned above for the (100) Si layer 14, and the (111) Si layer 54 can have a thickness within the range mentioned above for (111) Si layer 16. The buried insulator layer 52 can be comprised of one of the dielectric materials, and have a thickness within the range, as mentioned above for buried insulator layer 12. The silicon-on-insulator substrate shown in FIG. 13 can be formed by wafer bonding.

Referring now to FIG. 14, there is illustrated the structure of FIG. 13 after forming a Group III nitride material layer 18 on an uppermost surface of the (111) Si layer 54. The Group III nitride material layer 18 of this embodiment of the present disclosure is the same as described above in connection with FIG. 2 of the present disclosure.

Referring now to FIG. 15, there is illustrated the structure of FIG. 14 after forming a blanket layer of dielectric material 20 on an uppermost surface of the Group III nitride material layer 18. The blanket layer of dielectric material 20 of this embodiment of the present disclosure is the same as described above in connection with FIG. 3 of the present disclosure.

Referring now to FIG. 16, there is illustrated the structure of FIG. 15 after forming an opening 56 through the blanket layer of dielectric material 20, and the Group III nitride material layer 18 exposing a portion of the uppermost surface of the Si (111) material layer 54. In the drawing, the remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material 20, and remaining portions of the Group III nitride material layer 18 are labeled as 20' and 18', respectively. Opening 56 is formed using the technique, i.e., lithography and etching, which was used in forming opening 22 in the structure shown in FIG. 4 of the present application. Opening 56 can have an aspect ratio within the range mentioned above for opening 22. In this embodiment, the opening 56 also exposes sidewall surfaces of the remaining portions of dielectric material 20', and remaining portions of the Group III nitride material 18'.
Referring now to FIG. 17, there is illustrated the structure of FIG. 16 after forming a conformal dielectric material liner 24 on all exposed surfaces including atop the exposed surfaces of the remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material 20, the exposed sidewall surfaces of the remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material 20 and the remaining portions of the Group III nitride material layer 18 and atop an exposed uppermost surface of the (111) Si layer 54. The conformal dielectric material liner 24 used in this embodiment of the present disclosure is the same as that mentioned above in FIG. 5 of the present disclosure.

Referring to FIG. 18, there is illustrated the structure of FIG. 17 after removing horizontal portions of the conformal dielectric material liner 24 from the structure to re-expose a portion of the uppermost surface of the (111) Si layer 18. The removal of the horizontal portions of the conformal dielectric material liner 24 can be performed utilizing anisotropic etch process, such as a reactive ion etch. In the drawings, the remaining portions of the conformal dielectric material liner 24 that are located on the exposed sidewall surfaces of the remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material 20 and the remaining portions of the Group III nitride material layer 18 are referred to herein as template dielectric spacers 24.

Referring now to FIG. 19, there is illustrated the structure of FIG. 18 after growing an epitaxial semiconductor material layer from the re-exposed portion of the uppermost surface of the (111) Si layer 54 and planarization. The epitaxial semiconductor material layer can be formed utilizing the epitaxial growth process mentioned above in forming the structure shown in FIG. 7 of the present disclosure and one of the planarization process mentioned above in forming the structure shown in FIG. 7 can be employed herein in forming the structure shown in FIG. 19. The remaining portion of the epitaxial semiconductor material layer after planarization is labeled as element 26 in the drawing. After planarization portions of the template spacer 24 remains forming dielectric spacers 24.

FIG. 19 illustrates yet another semiconductor structure that can be formed in the present disclosure. In this embodiment, and as shown in FIG. 19, the structure that is provided includes a (100) silicon layer 50 having an uppermost surface; a buried insulator layer 52 located on the uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer 50; a (111) silicon layer 54 located on an uppermost surface of the buried insulator layer 52; a patterned Group III nitride material (i.e., remaining portions 18′ located on an uppermost surface of the (111) silicon layer 54; and an epitaxial semiconductor material layer 26 located within an opening in the patterned Group III nitride material layer 18). As shown in FIG. 19, the epitaxial semiconductor material layer 26 has a bottommost surface in direct contact with the uppermost surface of the (111) silicon layer 54 and an uppermost surface that is coplanar within the uppermost surface of the patterned Group III nitride material layer (i.e., remaining portions 18′). Also, sidewall surfaces of the epitaxial semiconductor material layer 26 are separated from sidewall surfaces of the patterned Group III nitride material layer by a dielectric spacer 24.

After forming the structure shown in FIG. 7, 12, or 19, semiconductor devices (not shown) such as, for example, field effect transistors (FET), photonic devices (i.e., light emitting diodes or laser diodes) and combinations thereof, can be formed using conventional process that are well known to those skilled in the art. In some embodiments, the semiconductor devices can be formed upon and within the Group III nitride material layer 18 and/or the epitaxial semiconductor material layer 26. When FETs are formed upon and within the Group III nitride material layer 18, a portion of the Group III nitride material layer 18 can serve as a device channel and a gate stack including at least a gate dielectric material and gate electrode can be formed above the device channel utilizing conventional silicon complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS)-like processes. When FETs are formed upon and within the epitaxial semiconductor material layer 26, a portion of the epitaxial semiconductor material layer 26 can serve as a device channel and a gate stack including at least a gate dielectric material and gate electrode can be formed above the device channel utilizing conventional silicon complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS)-like processes.

Referring now to FIG. 20, there is illustrated another structure that can be employed in yet another embodiment of the present disclosure. Specifically, the structure shown in FIG. 20 is a silicon-on-sapphire structure which includes a (100) Si layer 62 on a sapphire substrate 60. The (100) Si layer 62 can have a thickness with the range mentioned above for the (100) Si layer 14. The thickness of the sapphire substrate 60 can be from 50 microns to 2 cm, although lesser and greater thicknesses can also be employed. The silicon-on-sapphire structure can be formed by bonding or any other technique known to those skilled in the art that is capable of forming such a layered structure.

Referring now to FIG. 21, there is illustrated the structure of FIG. 20 after forming a blanket layer of dielectric material on an uppermost surface of the (100) Si layer and after forming an opening 66 through the blanket layer of dielectric material and the (100) Si layer to expose a portion of the uppermost surface of the sapphire substrate. The remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material are labeled as 20 in FIG. 21 and the remaining portions of the (100) Si layer are labeled as 62 in the drawing. The blanket layer of dielectric material that is formed in this embodiment of the present disclosure is the same as the blanket layer of dielectric material 20 described above. The opening 66 can be formed using the technique, i.e., lithography and etching that was used in forming opening 22 in the structure shown in FIG. 4 of the present application. Opening 66 can have an aspect ratio within the range mentioned above for opening 22. In this embodiment, the opening 66 also exposes sidewall surfaces of the remaining portions of the (100) Si layer 62.

Referring now to FIG. 22, there is illustrated after forming a Group III nitride material layer 18 from exposed sidewalls of the (100) Si layer and planarization. The Group III nitride material layer 18 that is formed in this embodiment includes one of the Group III nitride materials described above. Also, MOCVD as described above can be used here in forming Group III nitride material layer 18. The planarization process includes chemical mechanical planarization and/or grinding. FIG. 22 illustrates a further semiconductor structure that can be formed in the present disclosure. In this embodiment, and as shown in FIG. 22, the structure that is provided includes a layer of sapphire 60; a patterned (100) silicon layer (i.e., remaining (100) Si layer 62′) located on an uppermost surface of the layer of sapphire 60; and a Group III nitride material layer 18 located within an opening in the patterned (100) silicon layer and located on portion of the uppermost surface layer of sapphire. As shown, a portion of the Group III nitride material layer 18 is in direct contact with sidewalls of the patterned (100) silicon layer.

After forming the structure shown in FIG. 23, semiconductor devices such as, for example, field effect transistors (FET), photonic devices (i.e., light emitting diodes or laser diodes) and combinations thereof, can be formed using conventional
process that are well known to those skilled in the art. In some embodiments, the semiconductor devices can be formed upon and within the Group III nitride material layer 18 and/or the (100) Si layer 62. FIG. 23 illustrates a semiconductor device 68 located upon a portion of the (100) Si layer 62. When FETs are formed upon and within the Group III nitride material layer 18, a portion of the Group III nitride material layer 18 can serve as a device channel and a gate stack including at least a gate dielectric material and gate electrode can be formed above the device channel utilizing conventional silicon complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS)-like processes. When FETs are formed upon within the (100) Si layer 62, a portion of the (100) Si layer 62 can serve as a device channel and a gate stack including at least a gate dielectric material and gate electrode can be formed above the device channel utilizing conventional silicon complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS)-like processes. An interconnect dielectric material 70 such as, for example, silicon oxide, and a SiCOH dielectric, can be formed after semiconductor device fabrication.

While the present disclosure has been particularly shown and described with respect to various embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that the foregoing and other changes in forms and details may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present disclosure. It is therefore intended that the present disclosure not be limited to the exact forms and details described and illustrated, but fall within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of integrating a Group III nitride material and silicon, said method comprising:
   providing a structure comprising, from bottom to top, a (100) silicon layer, a (111) silicon layer located on an uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer, a Group III nitride material layer located on an uppermost surface of the (111) silicon layer, and a blanket layer of dielectric material located on an uppermost surface of the Group III nitride material layer;
   forming an opening through the blanket layer of dielectric material, the Group III nitride material layer, the (111) Si layer and partially within the (100) silicon layer, wherein a surface of the (100) silicon layer beneath the uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer is exposed;
   forming a conformal dielectric material liner atop remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material and within said opening;
   removing horizontal portions of the conformal dielectric material liner to provide template dielectric spacers partially covering said exposed surface of the (100) silicon layer;
   forming an epitaxial semiconductor material on a remaining portion of said exposed surface of the (100) silicon layer; and
   removing portions of the epitaxial semiconductor material, portions of said template dielectric spacers, and remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material to expose the uppermost surface of remaining portions of the Group III nitride material layer.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising a buried insulator layer located beneath and in contact with a bottommost surface of the (100) silicon layer, and a semiconductor substrate located beneath and in contact with a bottommost surface of the buried insulator layer.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said Group III nitride material layer is formed on said uppermost surface of the (111) silicon layer by metalorganic chemical vapor deposition.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said metalorganic chemical vapor deposition comprises introducing a Group III-containing precursor and a nitride precursor into a reactor chamber and depositing said precursors at a temperature of 850°C or greater.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said removing horizontal portions of the conformal dielectric material liner comprises an anisotropic etch.

6. A method of integrating a Group III nitride material and silicon, said method comprising:
   providing a structure comprising, from bottom to top, a (100) silicon layer, a buried insulator layer located on an uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer, a (111) silicon layer located on an uppermost surface of the buried insulator layer, a Group III nitride material layer located on an uppermost surface of the (111) silicon layer, and a blanket layer of dielectric material located on an uppermost surface of the Group III nitride material layer;
   forming an opening through the blanket layer of dielectric material, and the Group III nitride material layer to expose a portion of the uppermost surface of the (111) silicon layer;
   forming a conformal dielectric material liner atop remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material and within said opening;
   removing horizontal portions of the conformal dielectric material liner to provide a template dielectric spacers partially covering said exposed portion of the uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer;
   forming an epitaxial semiconductor material on a remaining exposed portion of the uppermost surface of the (111) silicon layer; and
   removing portions of the epitaxial semiconductor material, portions of said template dielectric spacers and remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material to expose the uppermost surface of remaining portions of the Group III nitride material layer.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said Group III nitride material layer is formed on said uppermost surface of the (111) silicon layer by metalorganic chemical vapor deposition.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said metalorganic chemical vapor deposition comprises introducing a Group III-containing precursor and a nitride precursor into a reactor chamber and depositing said precursors at a temperature of 850°C or greater.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein said removing horizontal portions of the conformal dielectric material liner comprises an anisotropic etch.

10. A method of integrating a Group III nitride material and silicon, said method comprising:
   providing a structure comprising, from bottom to top, a layer of sapphire, a (100) silicon layer located on an uppermost surface of the layer of sapphire, and a blanket layer of dielectric material located on an uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer;
   forming an opening with said structure to expose the uppermost surface of the layer of sapphire; and
   growing a Group III nitride material layer from exposed sidewalls of the (100) silicon layer; and
   removing portions Group III nitride material layer from atop remaining portions of the blanket layer of dielectric material.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said growing said Group III nitride material layer comprises metalorganic chemical vapor deposition.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein growing said metal-organic chemical vapor deposition comprises introducing a Group III-containing precursor and a nitrogen precursor into a reactor chamber and depositing said precursors at a temperature of 850° C. or greater.

13. A semiconductor structure comprising:
   a (100) silicon layer having an uppermost surface;
   a patterned (111) silicon layer located on the uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer;
   a patterned Group III nitride material layer located on an uppermost surface of the patterned (111) silicon layer; and
   an epitaxial semiconductor material layer located within an opening in said patterned (111) silicon layer and said patterned Group III nitride material layer, wherein said epitaxial semiconductor material layer has a bottommost surface in direct contact with a portion of said (100) silicon layer, and an uppermost surface that is coplanar within the uppermost surface of said patterned Group III nitride material layer, and wherein sidewall surfaces of the epitaxial semiconductor material layer are separated from sidewall surfaces of said patterned (111) silicon layer and said patterned Group III nitride material layer by a dielectric spacer.

14. The semiconductor structure of claim 13, further comprising a buried insulator layer located beneath and in contact with a bottommost surface of the (100) silicon layer, and a semiconductor substrate located beneath and in contact with a bottommost surface of the buried insulator layer.

15. The semiconductor structure of claim 13, wherein said portion of said (100) silicon layer that is in direct contact with said bottommost surface of the epitaxial semiconductor material is a portion of said uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer.

16. The semiconductor structure of claim 13, wherein said portion of said (100) silicon layer that is in direct contact with said bottommost surface of the epitaxial semiconductor material is a surface of the (100) silicon layer that is located beneath said uppermost surface of the (100) silicon layer.

17. The semiconductor structure of claim 15, wherein said dielectric spacer is a composite spacer comprising a bottom oxide spacer portion and an upper dielectric material spacer portion.

18. The semiconductor structure of claim 13, further comprising at least one semiconductor device located upon said epitaxial semiconductor material layer, said patterned Group III nitride material layer, or both said epitaxial semiconductor material layer, said patterned Group III nitride material layer.

19. A semiconductor structure comprising:
   a layer of sapphire;
   a patterned (100) silicon layer located on an uppermost surface of sapphire; and
   a Group III nitride material layer located within an opening in said patterned (100) silicon layer and located on portion of said uppermost surface layer of sapphire, wherein a portion of said Group III nitride material layer is in direct contact with sidewalls of said patterned (100) silicon layer.

20. The semiconductor structure of claim 19, further comprising a semiconductor device, wherein the semiconductor device is formed on a portion of the uppermost surface layer of the patterned (100) silicon layer.